

REMEMBERING A
HISTORIC ERA AT WKCR

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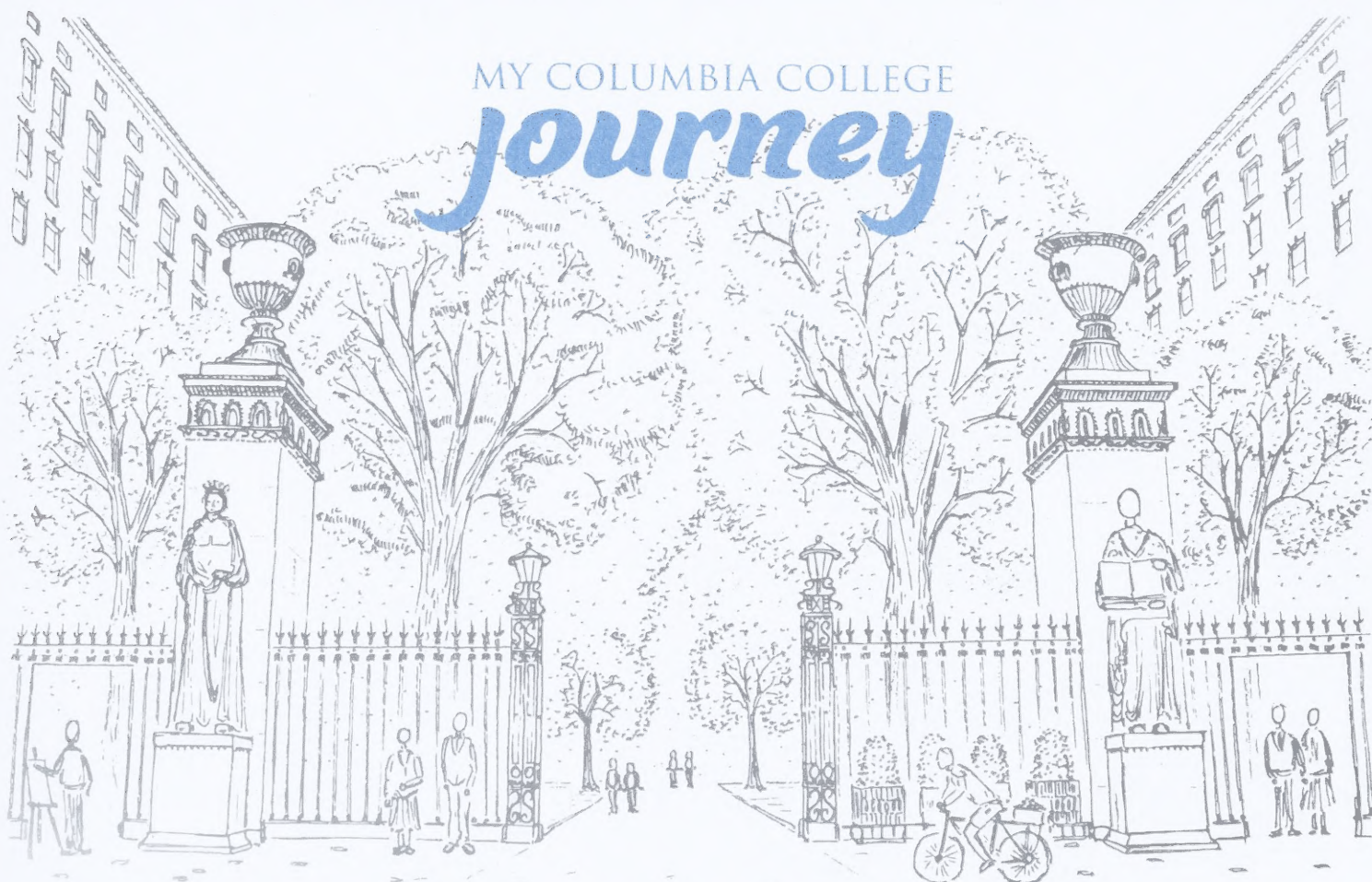
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MY COLUMBIA COLLEGE

Journey



A lifelong journey begins when each Columbian first steps onto College Walk. Through the Core Competencies of *My Columbia College Journey*, students balance classwork with communication skills and grades with leadership experiences, cultivating the confidence and habits of mind needed to thrive.

Civic and Individual Responsibility • Community Engagement and Inclusion
Critical Thinking • Creativity and Innovation • Global Awareness
Information and Technological Literacy • Knowledge • Oral Communication
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Share a lesson learned from your own Journey to help pave the way for our newest Columbians.

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Now on **CCT Online**



PRINT EXTRAS

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- New music video from Anthony "Ace" Patterson '11
- Photo excerpt from *Bricks & Brownstone*



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The cartoon caption contests continue.



ARIEL SCHRAG '03

"I think Roar-ee's just trying to find his Ni(etzs)che at Columbia!"

The winner of our fourth and final Core Centennial cartoon caption contest is Charles J. Huang '24! Thank you for all your submissions.



Message from the Dean

The Path to Lives of Significance

I write this message from the den of my home in New Jersey, weeks before the start of the academic year, with many uncertainties facing all of us at the College. I have been spending a lot of time in this room, which I never thought would serve as my dean's office, but here I am, and yes, it does. I am fortunate to be healthy, to be together with at least part of my family and to have this place to work from. Many others are not so fortunate. The effects of this pandemic have been devastating. My sympathy goes out to those for whom the cost has been high.

Our campus appears to me most often now as the virtual background during a Zoom call. My morning and evening transits along College Walk — to and from Hamilton Hall, with frequent stops to chat with students or faculty — have been replaced by 12 steps on a staircase and nine paces through the living room, stopping to pet our aging, adorable dog.

These are strange and sobering times. The scale of today's crises, the way they have permeated every aspect of our lives, the continuing uncertainties and the unresolved problems weigh on everyone.

The pandemic has rewritten the rules of college life, not just at Columbia College but also at almost every school in the country. It has certainly been difficult to plan for a year in which the majority of our students cannot be on campus, and a year during which the traditional activities that join us as a community must yield to the imperatives of public health. What we once took for granted now feels precious — seeing students lounging on Low Steps or throwing frisbees on South Lawn; sharing the beauty of tree-lined College Walk with students, faculty and visitors; taking in the elegance of the windows of Butler Library illuminated at night.

But as daunting as this year may be, we can embrace it as an opportunity to display our ability to respond to any challenge while remaining focused on our objectives. We are always looking for new ways of doing things, ways that we never would have thought to look for were it not for the disruption of the normal. It is most certainly a time when the discipline of Beginner's Mind will show its value.

As some of you know, the centennial celebration of the Core Curriculum was cut short due to the sudden dissolution of our campus lives in March. I'm pleased to share that we'll continue our focus on the Centennial into its 101st year, as Literature Humanities and Contemporary Civilization, in particular, employ the works of the Core to investigate social justice and individual rights and responsibilities. The incoming class has just finished reading the first six books of Homer's *Iliad*, in tandem with Claudia Rankine's 2014 lyrical poem *Citizen: An American Lyric*, a newer text that focuses on race, visibility and violence in modern America. These first-years and all others taking a Core class this year will continue the project of critically considering how society functions and reflects the values of its citizens, a deliberate and reflective experience needed now as much as ever.



Our Eric H. Holder Jr. Initiative for Civil and Political Rights will expand its programming to increase opportunities for our entire community to learn, listen and participate in the repair of flawed systems, the reassertion of individual responsibilities and the recognition of opportunities to take action. The new Global Columbia Collaboratory will move forward from its summer pilot phase to engage even more students in the projects of societal renewal made imperative by the pandemic, creating opportunities for our undergraduates to connect with global experts — virtually but no less effectively — while tackling issues of worldwide resonance and importance. I feel encouraged that the Columbia College experience will continue to offer our students a path to lives of significance, despite the constraints within which we must operate.

There will be few chances to bring alumni together for a while, but our commitment to staying in touch with you remains undiminished. Your engagement, support and affection for the College will be crucial to bolstering our efforts to navigate this historic year. Current students, managing through an academic experience marked by engagement at a distance, can be uplifted by a strong alumni presence in their lives. New graduates, still gaining their footing, will benefit from the mentorship and guidance of those who have passed through that transition already. And of course, your classmates and friends will be comforted to hear from and connect with you through Class Notes, emails or programs you can all join. A conscious effort to engage one another and maintain our College community matters more now that we will see each other less.

Stay safe, and be well.

James J. Valentini
James J. Valentini
Dean

LEARNING TO SEE

GIVING THANKS TO
ART HUMANITIES FOR OPENING OUR
EYES, HEARTS AND MINDS

ILLUSTRATION BY NICK LU





Around the Quads

Columbia Goes Remote for Fall 2020

All undergraduate courses will be taught virtually for the fall 2020 semester, according to updates from President Lee C. Bollinger and Dean James J. Valentini on August 14. Approximately 40 percent of all graduate courses will be taught partially online or in person.

The advancement of the COVID-19 virus in more than 33 states and territories resulted in the decision to drastically scale back the number of students living on campus; residential-style accommodations are now limited to only Columbia College and SEAS undergraduates who must be present on campus due to personal or academic circumstances.

New York State protocols would require all students from high-risk states and communities to quarantine for 14 days once they arrive on campus. "While I am supportive of the measures New York State has imposed," Bollinger wrote, "and while I have no doubt that we could ensure a safe quarantine period from a public health standpoint, two weeks is a long time to endure isolation, especially for students who will be leaving home for the first time."



DAVID DINI SIPA 14

Valentini underscored the point in his message: "The isolation of the 14-day quarantine and severe restrictions on campus life create conditions that we feel would be difficult for most students to thrive in."

While Bollinger said he is optimistic, he acknowledged that the Columbia community will be living with uncertainty for some time. "We should think of the fall term as part of a phased return. We need to establish a sense of confidence among us, turn to our experts in public health for guidance, calibrate our sense of risk based on best evidence, think in terms of the common good, and talk — again and again. ... As many of our rhythms of intellectual life are disrupted, we must make sure we are experimenting and learning from the vast array of teaching opportunities we will be exploring."

Undergraduate housing options for the spring term will continue to be evaluated.

Rankine's *Citizen* Added to Lit Hum

First-year Literature Humanities students had a new reading assignment this summer: Claudia Rankine's *Citizen: An American Lyric*.

The 2014 work, a finalist for the National Book Award, is a meditation about race in America. It was selected for the Lit Hum syllabus in response to recent protests and conversations around racism and police violence, providing a framework for a year where questions of racial injustice will be front and center in the classroom.

"It is a vital work for our time, and a vital work for Lit Hum, as it explores through the medium of lyric poetry questions of citizenship and community in a polarized world," said Joanna Stalaker, the Paul Brooke Program Chair for Literature Humanities.

Citizen includes the use of visual art, slogans, commentary, quotations from artists and critics, film scripts and more. "I started working on *Citizen* as a way of talking about invisible racism — moments

that you experience and that happen really fast," Rankine told *The New Yorker*. "They go by at lightning speed, and you begin to distrust that they even happened, and yet you know that you feel bad somehow."

Landmark Gift for Columbia Chemistry

Columbia announced a \$21.5 million gift from Ge Li GSAS'94 and Ning Zhao GSAS'95 to advance research and teaching in chemistry at Columbia College and other University schools.

The gift will provide an endowed scholarship for College students concentrating in chemistry and will also support two endowed professorships, including funding for a laboratory startup and an endowed fellowship for graduate students.

"We are deeply grateful to our graduates Dr. Ge Li and Dr. Ning Zhao, who know firsthand the importance of investing in fundamental scientific discovery," President Lee C. Bollinger said. "Their generosity will allow us to expand our

efforts to address challenges in areas like cancer and climate, while supporting the gifted faculty and students who make that work possible."

"I have known Ge and Ning ever since they came to Columbia chemistry as graduate students," Dean James J. Valentini said. "They have always expressed to me a deep bond with Columbia and its great chemistry department. I am so pleased to have worked with them in developing this remarkable gift to Columbia." He added, "That gift will support our faculty, graduate students and undergraduates, enabling the success of so many future Columbians."

Li and Zhao both earned their doctorates in organic chemistry at Columbia. In 2000, Li founded WuXi AppTec, a provider of research, development and manufacturing services that enables companies in the pharmaceutical and biotech industries worldwide, where Li is chair and CEO. Zhao is a member of the board, senior VP and global head of human resources at WuXi AppTec, and president of the Ge Li & Ning Zhao Family Foundation.

LIMARIS CARABALLO



Ruben Gonzalez

By Jill C. Shomer

Professor of Chemistry Ruben Gonzalez was developing his lectures for his first semester teaching *Frontiers of Science* when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. His original plans for a unit called “Molecules and Life” were shelved; his debut Core experience this fall will now focus on the coronavirus. “I’m teaching the molecular basis of how the virus infects cells, how the disease progresses and how one develops a vaccine or a drug — all from the chemist’s point of view,” he says. “I think everyone is really excited.”

The enthusiasm is not surprising coming from Gonzalez, who says that chemistry is his “heart and brain.” He teaches general and honors-level chemistry to first-years, but his primary focus is biophysical chemistry and the study of biomolecular structure and function; as the founder and principal investigator of The Gonzalez Laboratory, he works with undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral research scientists from different disciplines — chemists, biologists, physicists and computer scientists — conducting biomedical research into the molecular mechanisms of gene expression, antibiotic activity and resistance, and cancer. They

are currently developing projects related to coronavirus and COVID-19.

“The lab has a life of its own,” Gonzalez says. “In pre-pandemic times, there was a social component to our lab work — researchers would analyze data or work on manuscripts together, or sometimes just hang out discussing the latest results over coffee. That’s gone. Now we work in shifts, and you can only be there if you’re actively working on an experiment. Masks, gloves and eye protection the whole time. We have to be really efficient and safe.”

Gonzalez fell in love with science as a teenager in Miami, after a particularly great high school teacher introduced him to chemistry. “She taught chemistry through the eyes of a biologist,” Gonzalez says. “It was really impactful. It’s informed all the science I’ve done since then.” He caught the research bug at Florida International University, and put off his graduation so he could spend another year working in a lab. His mentor there encouraged him to go to graduate school, and he got his Ph.D. in biophysical chemistry from UC Berkeley in 2000.

While doing his post-doc at Stanford, Gonzalez got involved in a new area of study that used advanced microscopes to

look at single molecules. “I had access to these wonderful instruments that at the time existed in only five or six labs in the world,” he says. Gonzalez became one of a small number of people who could build and use these microscopes; that ability is what brought him to Columbia. “My future colleagues appreciated that I was doing this cutting-edge, molecular-level biochemistry that belonged in a chemistry department,” Gonzalez says. He started as an assistant professor and launched the Gonzalez Lab at Columbia in 2006.

In addition to his research, Gonzalez takes his role as an educator very seriously. “I had such fantastic mentors, people who had an incredible influence on my education and my research,” he says. “I was given the room to grow and learn, and I was always pointed in the right direction. I strive to do the same for my own students.”

Students need opportunities as well as mentorship, and increasing the diversity of STEM is also important to Gonzalez. As a first-generation Cuban-American who grew in an immigrant household and community, he says he struggled with issues he is now trying to address, such as an overreliance on standardized test scores for admission to academic programs and advanced courses. “I didn’t do as well as I thought I needed to on my GRE, and I figured I was sunk,” he admits. Nonetheless, some of the admissions committees saw past his test score. “So now I feel like it’s my responsibility to point out that the GRE is not the only metric, that we shouldn’t exclude students like me. All of my work is grounded in an awareness of systematic ways we take exclusionary positions — as a faculty, as a department, as an institution — and what we can do to address that.”

“George Floyd’s murder and everything that’s happened since then has just amplified that,” he continues. “I really do feel like we have a *moment* right now, and it feels different this time. There’s an opportunity to do something transformative. For years it’s felt like we’ve been chipping away at one little thing at a time. Now I feel like we can roll in the trucks and do something significant.”

Gonzalez lives in Riverdale with his wife and two children; he enjoys cycling, running, and camping with his family. He also likes to cook, and grows his own vegetables in their small backyard. He especially loves cooking Cuban food, he says. “I’m true to my roots!”

The Abstract Sculptor Who Melded East and West

By Thomas Vinciguerra '85, JRN'86, GSAS'90

“I have looked upon every new job as another opportunity to break new ground,” said prolific abstract sculptor Isamu Noguchi CC 1926. In his 84 years, Noguchi broke new ground aplenty. Fusing time-honored Asian aesthetics with Western modernism, he created a plethora of striking specimens — everything from mammoth monoliths to tabletop conversation starters. His public works, embracing standalone pieces and entire sculpture gardens alike, dot the globe. Noguchi fashioned memorials, minimalist stage sets and even smart postwar home decor. He was,

said critic Robert Hughes in 1980, “the pre-eminent American sculptor.”

Born in Los Angeles to a Japanese father and an American mother, Noguchi apprenticed as a teenager with Gutzon Borglum, the creator of Mount Rushmore. Borglum told him that he would never be an artist, but Noguchi’s mother disagreed, advising: “Be your own god and your own star.” At the College he enrolled as a premed but only lasted a year and a half. His mind was elsewhere; his chemistry and biology notebook, said his mother, was filled with “nothing but sketches of vagaries — fishes, rabbits, nude ladies, etc. Not one word of any science.” In spring 1924 a visit to Onorio Ruotolo, director of the Leonardo da Vinci Art School on East 10th Street, paid off; Noguchi became his studio assistant, and his first exhibition, of 22 plasters and terra-cottas, came just three months after they met. Ruotolo proclaimed him a “new Michelangelo.”

In 1927, Noguchi won a Guggenheim Fellowship. “It is my desire,” he told the administrators, “to view nature through nature’s eyes, and to ignore man as an object for special veneration.” This he did in Paris under the legendary Constantin Brancusi. “He showed me how to square a block out of limestone,” Noguchi recalled dryly. Soon, Noguchi was fashioning clay, brass, wood, plastic and especially stone of all sorts into puzzling, fiercely asymmetrical pieces, replete with unexpected twists, angles, cuts, holes and nodules. He branded the results with such names as *Globular*; *Foot Tree*; and *Noodle*.

Noguchi’s East-West duality informed his life and his work. Though American by birth, he spent a decade of his childhood in Japan, returning home in 1918; during WWII, he voluntarily spent several months in a Japanese-American internment camp in Arizona to better understand his own nature. “With my double



Foot Tree (1928)

nationality and double upbringing, where was my home?” he wondered. “Where my affections? Where my identity? Japan or America, both — or the world?” Noguchi ultimately determined that “For one with a background like myself the question of identity is very uncertain. It’s only in art that it was ever possible for me to find any identity at all.”

His output, he said, resulted from the “process of listening.” Always, his goal was to form and convey a relationship with his raw materials, tapping and releasing the natural forces that he felt within them. Indeed, Noguchi often thought of his creations as living things, asking to be fully awakened. “When I face natural stones, they start talking to me,” he said. “Once I hear their voices, I give them just a bit of a hand.”

Noguchi, wrote his biographer Hayden Herrera, preferred “certain shapes — columns, twisting pylons, pyramids and triangles, interlocking elements, cubes, circles, spheres, and emerging earth forms.” He expressed these forms with everything from soft marble to hard granite, from organic balsa to inorganic aluminum. In



Noguchi, circa 1970, fused Asian aesthetics with Western modernism in a career spanning six decades.

WALTER REISER / © THE ISAMU NOGUCHI FOUNDATION AND GARDEN MUSEUM, NEW YORK / ARS



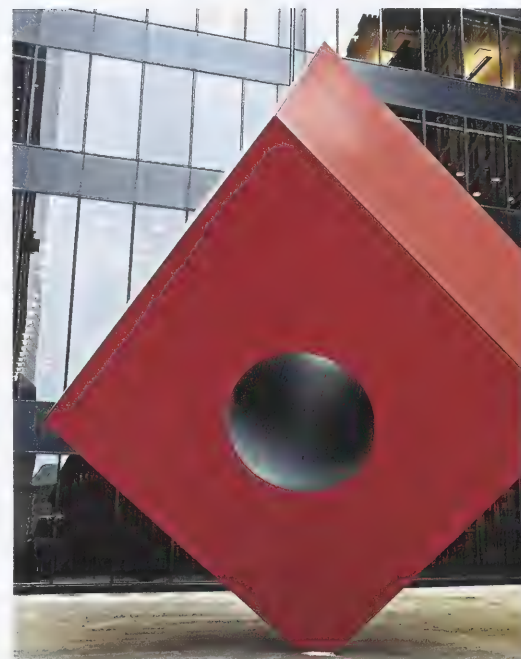
Ballet set for *Appalachian Spring* (1944)

1978, reviewing the traveling exhibition *Noguchi's Imaginary Landscapes*, future Pulitzer Prize-winning art critic Allan Temko '47 wrote that Noguchi's output sprang from his "several distinct selves, all exquisitely refined."

Like most great artists, Noguchi was determined and single-minded. "When I'm with the stone," he said, "there is not one second when I'm not working." But he readily collaborated with choreographers like George Balanchine and Merce Cunningham. For Martha Graham he designed 20 ballet sets, including for *Appalachian Spring* (1944), with Pulitzer Prize-winning music supplied by Aaron Copland. "The works he created for my ballets brought to me a new vision, a new world of space," said Graham. (Admittedly, the two strong wills sometimes

clashed. "More than once," Graham said, "I had to order him off the stage.")

Noguchi easily catered both to formidable institutions and ordinary people. For the former, he realized the eclectic Billy Rose Art Garden for Jerusalem's Israel Museum and nine exuberantly spouting stainless-steel fountains for Expo '70 in Osaka. In New York City he fashioned the 24-ft.-tall *Red Cube* at the Marine Midland Bank and the urgently rendered nine-ton bas-relief plaque *Nerw*, above the entrance to the Associated Press Building in Rockefeller Center. Literally close to home, Noguchi won widespread praise for his instantly recognizable three-cornered glass-topped coffee table and the living-room lamps known as *akari*, the Japanese word for "light." Constructed of bamboo ribbing and *washi*, the handmade



Red Cube (1968)

paper that comes from the inner bark of the mulberry tree, they emit a milky glow that, Noguchi suggested, offers "a magical unfolding away from the material world."

Some time before he died on December 30, 1988, Noguchi had announced, "I have come to no conclusions, no beginnings, no endings." Then again, such uncertainty defined his *oeuvre*. Sculpture, Noguchi said, "is the art which can only be appreciated in the raw, relative to man's motion, to time's passage, and to its constantly changing situation."

From the Archives

The Living-Learning Center Brings Students Together

Did you know that the only all-class residence hall at Columbia opened 20 years ago? The Living-Learning Center comprises Hartley and Wallach Halls; students from all undergraduate class years can live together in a community focused on building connections through events and on-campus involvement. In the Fall 2000 issue, *CCT* covered the opening of the dorm, which was a new concept for the College at the time. Then-Dean Austin E. Quigley was quoted about its importance: "Rather than being brought together for one event, the same people come back again and again and contacts and relationships get built on a deeper level." Find the story: bit.ly/2EQED2m.



SCOTT RUDD

ROAR, LION, ROAR

10 Great Moments in Lions Football

By Alex Sachare '71

THIS FALL marks the 150th anniversary of Columbia football, but in the COVID-19 era there are no fall sports being played in the Ivy League. To fill the void, we thought it would be fun to wake the echoes and provide a list of the 10 greatest moments from the Lions gridiron. They are listed chronologically; we hope they stir some enjoyable memories.

What's your favorite Lions football moment?
Let us know at cct@columbia.edu.

Alex Sachare '71 is a former Spectator sports editor and CCT editor-in-chief; his favorite Lions football moment came on October 2, 1971, when Columbia snapped a 20-game losing streak to Princeton by beating the Tigers 22-20.



1.

NOVEMBER 5, 1870

Columbia plays its first game of intercollegiate football and becomes only the third school in the country to play the sport. The Lions lose at Rutgers 6-3 in the first interstate game ever played; the three previous games had been between Princeton and Rutgers.



2.

OCTOBER 15, 1915

Columbia beats St. Lawrence 57-0 in its first game following a nine-year hiatus. Football competition had been discontinued after the 1905 season, when some deemed it too violent and inappropriate for college students. The Lions would celebrate the sport's return by winning all five of their games, which were played on South Field, the team's home until Baker Field opened for competition in 1923.

3.

JANUARY 1, 1934

Columbia defeats Stanford 7-0 in the Rose Bowl on a 17-yard touchdown run by Al Barabas CC 1936. The play was called KF-79: Quarterback Cliff Montgomery CC 1934 fakes a handoff to Ed Brominski CC 1935 going to the right, and when the Stanford defense pursues in that direction, he gives the ball to Barabas, who sweeps around left end to score. It marks the only Bowl Game appearance for Columbia.

4.

DECEMBER 12, 1938

Quarterback Sid Luckman '39 is the first player selected overall in the NFL Draft, by the Chicago Bears. He goes on to play 12 seasons for the Bears, leading them to four NFL Championships, winning NFL MVP honors and earning a place in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.



5.

NOVEMBER 25, 1947

Columbia ends Army's 32-game winning streak by beating the Cadets 21-20 at Baker Field in what is considered one of the biggest upsets in college football history. Trailing 20-6 going into the fourth quarter, the Lions climb back into the game on a 28-yard touchdown pass from Gene Rossides '49, LAW'52 to Bill Swiacki BUS'48 then win it on a 2-yard run by Lou Kusserow '49 that was set up by another Rossides-Swiacki completion and Ventan Yablonski TC'48's point after conversion.

A. Stuyvesant Fish CC 1871, captain of the 1870 team.

B. The KF-79 in action at the 1934 Rose Bowl.

C. Sid Luckman '39, who went pro for 12 years, at Baker Field in 1938.

D. An aerial view of the South Field gridiron, circa late 1910s-early 1920s.

E. Bill Swiacki TC'48 makes a catch at the 1947 game that broke Army's 32-game winning streak.

F. Legendary coach Lou Little was inducted into the National Football Hall of Fame in 1960.

G. Team captain Bill Campbell '62, TC'64 celebrates the win over Penn in 1961 in the Lions' only Ivy League Championship.

H. *Spectator's* back page from November 8, 1971, highlighting Paul Kaliades '73's 34-yard field goal.

I. Josh Wainwright '21 is hoisted by teammates after his 24-yard TD pass secured a Homecoming 2017 victory.



COLUMBIA ATHLETICS / MIKE McLAUGHLIN



MORE ON LIONS FOOTBALL

Learn more about the first 150 years of Columbia football at exhibitions.library.columbia.edu/exhibits/show/roar-lion-roar, and keep an eye on gocolumbialions.com for Athletics's own retrospective, to come later this fall.

6.

NOVEMBER 24, 1956

Lou Little coaches his final game for the Lions, an 18–12 victory over Rutgers. Little, who was inducted into the National Football Foundation Hall of Fame in 1960, holds the Columbia coaching records for most victories, 110; most seasons, 27; and most games, 236.



7.

NOVEMBER 18, 1961

The Lions dominate Penn in all phases of the game to post a 37–6 victory and win their only Ivy League championship despite the absence of their team captain and inspirational leader, Bill Campbell '62, TC'64, who was out due to injury. Five players — Bob Asack '62, Lee Black '62, Tony Day '63, Tom Haggerty '62 and Russ Warren '62 — receive All-Ivy League honors as Columbia goes 6–1 in Ivy play and 6–3 overall.

8.

NOVEMBER 6, 1971

Columbia knocks off previously unbeaten Dartmouth 31–29 on a 34-yard field goal by Paul Kaliades '73 with 54 seconds left to play. Dartmouth entered the game undefeated in 15 games over two seasons. Columbia goes on to post a 6–3 record, its first winning mark since 1962.



9.

OCTOBER 8, 1988

The Lions end a record 44-game losing streak by rallying to beat Princeton 16–13, the first win at the new Lawrence A. Wien Stadium at Baker Field. Columbia fell behind 10–0, cut the margin to 10–9 at halftime and then, after a Princeton field goal, scores the winning touchdown on a 2-yard run by Solomon Johnson '91 in the final five minutes.

10.

OCTOBER 14, 2017

Columbia beats Penn 34–31 in overtime as Anders Hill '18 hits Josh Wainwright '21 with the winning 24-yard touchdown pass, prompting many in the Homecoming crowd of 13,081 to storm onto the field in celebration. The Lions rally from a 21-point fourth-quarter deficit to snap a 15-Homecoming game losing streak. After starting the season 6–0 under Ivy League Coach of the Year Al Bagnoli, the Lions finish the campaign 8–2 overall and 5–2 in Ivy play.



YOUR CORE STORIES

GENERATIONS OF ALUMNI
CELEBRATE THE WORKS,
INSTRUCTORS AND EXPERIENCES
OF THE **100-YEAR-OLD**
CORE CURRICULUM

The measure of the Core Curriculum resides not only in the number of years it has existed, but also in the generations of students it has influenced. And as the Core sails into its 101st year, that influence shows no signs of abating — it remains one of the defining experiences of a Columbia College education and unites the entire College community. For that reason, we knew that

every alum would have a Core story to tell. Over the past year, as part of the College's Core Centennial celebration, we've asked about your favorite works, thinkers, artists and writers; which professors had an impact; what you learned; and which part of the Core experience you enjoyed most. Here's a sampling of your responses; share your story at core100@columbia.edu.

— The Editors

ILLUSTRATIONS BY
JAMES GULLIVER HANCOCK

[CORE EXPERIENCE]

The Core is a century old, and I am getting close! The sum of my Core experience only became apparent to me after graduation and the realization that, year after year, without diminution to this day, the Core had become the foundation for a life of honesty, integrity, curiosity and an appreciation of the values upon which a virtuous life may be built. That “virtuous life” became, and remains, the primary goal toward which I strive in the small ways that present themselves day to day.

— John Weaver '49

[CORE EXPERIENCE]

I came to Columbia with a background in math and physics. The Core opened my eyes, mind and heart to a lifetime of fullness and inspiration.

— Dr. Larry Harte '53

[CORE EXPERIENCE]

So much of one's experience is based on the ability of the professor to communicate, and to facilitate and elevate discussions, creating magic in the classroom and bringing home the Core. I enjoyed so many teachers — adjunct, graduate, full professors — who were able to do this consistently.

— Dehua “Wah” Chen '92

[FAVORITE INSTRUCTOR]

I remember the first thing Elliot Gilbert, our Lit Hum instructor, said at the beginning of the course: “Only a very thin piece of asphalt or cement separates us from the jungle.” I've kept it in mind through everything and have, I hope, managed to increase its thickness.

— Harry Levy '65

[CORE EXPERIENCE]

Learning is a painful experience sometimes. Unhinging your interior and allowing in new ideas and new thoughts, and new perspectives from other students, is not an easy or comfortable experience. The single institution to which I'm most indebted is Columbia College. I've drawn from what I learned there my entire life.

— Tony Kushner '78

[CORE WRITER]

Herodotus: His work is dirty, mythical, action-packed.

— Sara Cherkerzian '94

[WHAT I LEARNED]

There is no substitute for being an educated citizen, and the Core prepares you to be just that.

— Brian Krisberg '81, LAW'84

[CORE WORK]

Genesis: Analyzing what is perhaps the most influential text in the Western canon for its literary value was fascinating to me.

— Jacob Kim-Sherman '23

[WHAT I LEARNED]

Lit Hum and CC opened my eyes to civilization as a conversation, how authors wrote in response to their predecessors and how my classmates and I fit into that conversation. The Core taught me to read, to listen and to see.

— Dr. Jonathan Rosand '88, PS'94

[CORE EXPERIENCE]

My first museum visit was thanks to Art Humanities; it changed my major from economics to art history.

— Laurence Berger '69, SIPA'70, BUS'71

[WHAT I LEARNED]

Great and constructive ideas can come from anybody at any time.

— Alan Freeman '93

[CORE WORK]

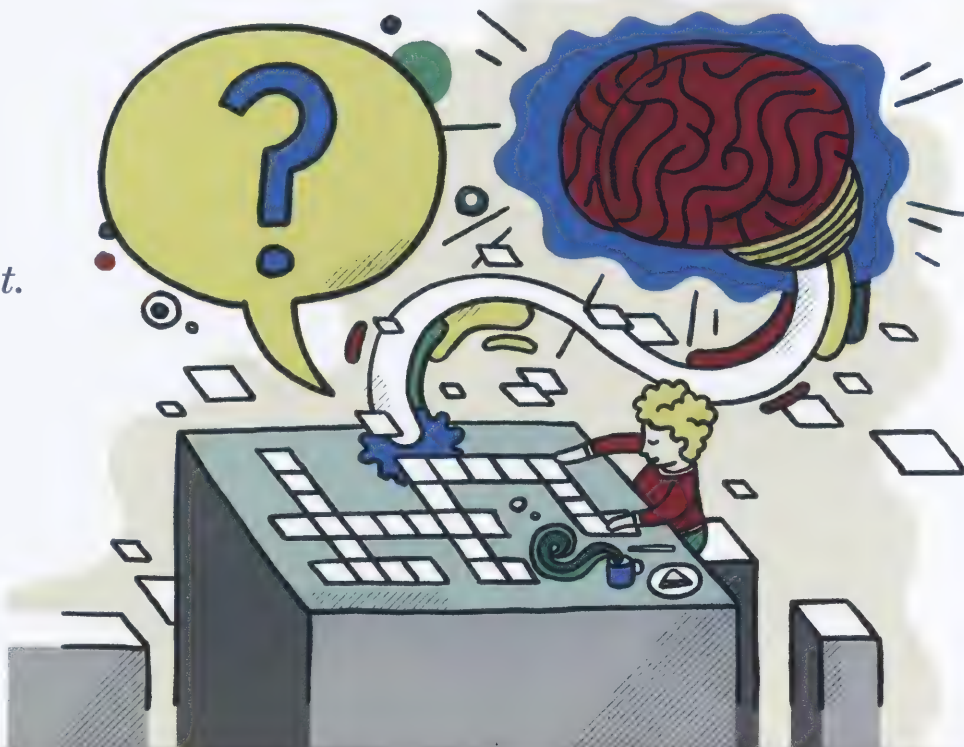
Symposium: *It offers a lens into some of the most forward and progressive discussion around gender, sexuality and love in the Core, especially from someone as far back as Plato. It inspired me to look for other early queer discussions in the Core and my other literary endeavors.*

— Salvatore G. Volpe '19, GSAS'21

[CORE EXPERIENCE]

Often my wife will ask me a question when doing a crossword puzzle, reading a book or needing some fact. Often the answer comes to me out of the Core. She says, "HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?" I smile.

— Gregory Tarsy '65



[CORE EXPERIENCE]

I was presented with two options among the Ivy League schools to which I was admitted. One was to effectively choose my own curriculum and, other than satisfying major requirements, I could choose any class I liked. The other, at the College, was to have the first two years of my education chosen for me. I wisely decided that a 200-year-old college telling me what a good college education was would be a better choice than an 18-year-old kid (*moi*) guessing what a good college education might be. I have never regretted it.

— Mark Olsen Morris '82

[CORE WORK]

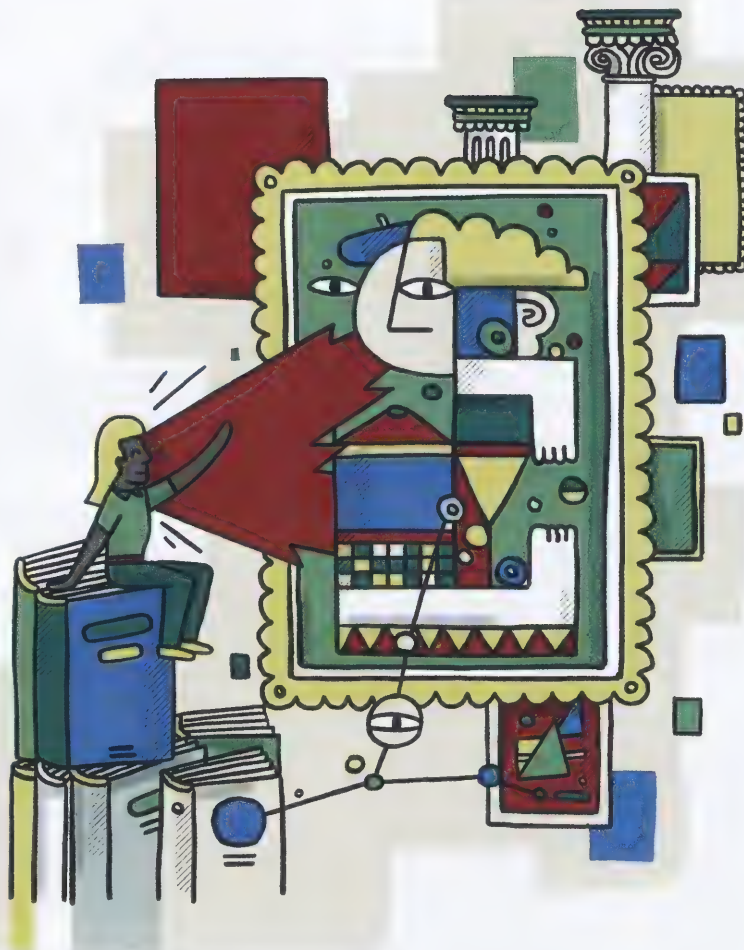
Lysistrata: It made me fall in love with theater and the power of women on stage.

— Siobhan Gilbert '09

[CORE EXPERIENCE]

Lit Hum is the great unifier for College alumni not only because of the conclusions that we arrived at through the texts, but also by the act of searching for answers in the words.

— Anna Couturier '10



[CORE ARTIST]

I appreciated studying Picasso's work because it reflected an intentional deviation from tradition and the very rules that we learned had served as the foundation for art forms for several centuries. Only with a strong understanding of those rules could he have masterfully broken them, and created an exciting way to express himself and connect with others. He was particularly striking to me because his journey embodies what the Core could be for CC students, as well: As we continue to engage with old texts/works through this shared experience, we develop pillars of critical thinking.

— Kavya Tewari '20



[CORE WORK]

Song of Solomon:
the way in which
Toni Morrison uses
language to both
tell her story and
subvert traditional
power structures is
just ... too good.

— Jane Watson '22

[FAVORITE INSTRUCTOR]

One Lit Hum exchange with Professor Larry Lapidus stands emblematic: I raised my hand to respond to a classmate's comments and prefaced my remarks by saying "I was thinking ..." when he interjected, "Good, Mr. Halpern, good."

— Mitch Halpern '78

[CORE WORK]

Crime and Punishment. It was a life-changing book that made me reflect on the ideas of religion, guilt, human existence and our inner condition.

— Johnna Wu '12

[CORE EXPERIENCE]

I did not like the Core when I was going through it, but once in the workforce, I realized what an advantage it was. It gave me a broad perspective that allowed me to relate to strangers and colleagues. It made it easier to find common ground.

— Michael Sin '05

[CORE WORK]

The Prince. I was so absorbed in it that I read it in one sitting. I was amazed by how much of a book written in the 1500s could be applicable to politics today.

— Andrew West '13

[CORE WRITER]

Herodotus, for his great storytelling abilities and sage observations of human nature. I remember the "Wheel of Life": Sometimes you are on the rise, or at the top; sometimes at the bottom. But the wheel keeps turning.

— Michael O'Connor '69

[CORE EXPERIENCE]

Before Columbia I did not have much appreciation of art and certainly not of art history. However, after taking the Core class as a freshman, my interest grew; I ended up majoring in biology and became a physician, but I also ended up with a minor in art history. Throughout the years I had visited a few art museums here and there, and three years ago my wife and I finally visited Italy. Among our stops were the Vatican collection in Rome and the Uffizi Gallery in Florence. It all came flooding back to me as I could see in real life what I had only seen in books and prints all those years ago. It was awe-inspiring, to say the least, and I am forever grateful for the foundation I received from the Core.

— Robert Werner '77

[CORE EXPERIENCE]

There are many fine colleges where students read Aristotle, Shakespeare, Dante and Morrison. What distinguishes the Core is the academic "hothouse" that comes from contemporaneous academic study of these fundamental works with one's peers.

— John Vincenti '90



[CORE EXPERIENCE]

After a term of Music Humanities, I convinced my parents to buy an annual subscription to the New York Philharmonic. We had it for about 45 years.

— Beril Lapson '64, SEAS'73, BUS'77

[CORE WORK]

The Oresteia: The compelling drama and conflict between the characters felt so modern — thrilling as a new Columbia student.

— Hope Silberstein '14

[CORE EXPERIENCE]

Some of us thought at the time that the Core's purpose was to equip us for cocktail conversation. We were wrong.

— Steve Conway '93

[CORE EXPERIENCE]

The Core exposed me to a lifetime's worth of enjoyment of the classics, philosophy and art. It provided a nibble of what has turned out to be a veritable banquet.

— Dr. Ilan Hartstein '81

[WHAT I LEARNED]

Latin phrases! 😊 De facto, ad infinitum, a priori, a posteriori.

— Wanda Marie Holland Greene '89, TC'91

[WHAT I LEARNED]

Truth may not be a singularity.

— Harrison Zhang '22



[CORE EXPERIENCE]

A classmate and I were both commuters. After some stimulating discussions in the Core courses, we would continue our intense “debates” near our homes, often well into the early morning hours. We were sometimes greeted from a raised window with “Go home already!”

— Gordon Silverman '55, SEAS'57

[CORE THINKER]

Thucydides, because among other things, he illustrated how fragile democracies are — how the fortunes of a society are shaped by good and bad leaders, and how important it is for citizens to be on guard against demagogues and thus work to become acquainted with the prevailing economic and social issues of the day, to vote intelligently. I believe *History of the Peloponnesian War* is the most relevant and engaging of all the books we studied in Lit Hum and should always remain on the syllabus. I have read it five times since graduation, once (partially) in Greek. It is truly a *kteima eis aei*, a possession for ever.

— Paul Schwarzbaum '84

[FAVORITE INSTRUCTOR]

Freshman CC: Arthur Danto GSAS'53, hand in the air, flicking ashes from his cigarette, eyes looking to the clouds as he groped for just the right words to glean the kernel of wisdom from Plato or Bentham.

— Dr. William Greenfield '66

[CORE EXPERIENCE]

The Core made me switch majors. I started out as a science scholar and biology major on the premedical track, but a wonderful experience in Literature Humanities set me on a different course. There, I gained a wonderful mentor in a professor who not only cemented my love for literature, but also believed that my education and intellectual development in a field wildly different from my own were nevertheless valuable and worthwhile. Now, I'm doing my Ph.D. in English literature at Harvard, continuing my studies in Anglo-Saxon literature, manuscript studies and philology.

— Emily Sun '19

[CORE WORK]

Plato's *The Republic* was the first book I read at Columbia College in 1975; I realize how relevant it still is today. I recently checked out the insights of this philosopher, who was born in 427 B.C. Plato was disillusioned with his democratic government and wrote about behaviors ideal for people "to whom you would entrust your state." From the yellowed page 280 of my 1974 Penguin Books edition, Plato wrote: "Good memory, readiness to learn, breadth of vision and grace, and be a friend of truth, justice, courage and self-control."

— Dr. Jeffrey B. Freedman '79

[CORE CLASS]

Contemporary Civilization: I loved reading the Bible as a piece of literature rather than as a piece of religion.

— John Rodin '97

[CORE WRITER]

Virginia Woolf: She taught me to appreciate the small moments in life.

— Jonathan Young '17

[CORE WORK]

The Odyssey: Despite the fact that it was “written” more than 2,000 years ago, human nature remains the same — we are brave but also cowardly, adventurous but also homebodies, and above all else, we value the bonds with family and friends closest to us.

— Genevieve Thornton '02, BUS'09

[CORE EXPERIENCE]

Even though I excelled at writing in high school, I could not master “Logic & Rhetoric.”

— Jessica Craig '94

[FAVORITE INSTRUCTOR]

I had Susan Sontag as an instructor for Lit Hum. The rigorous reading and interpretive thinking she expected was sobering; after a few months I began to appreciate what in-depth scholarship by a brilliant mind was about.

— Dr. Jack Singer '64

[CORE EXPERIENCE]

I recall that tingling sense of excitement I felt the first day of Lit Hum as my professor chanted The Iliad's opening line, “Sing Goddess, the anger of Peleus' son Achilles.”

— Benjamin Apfel '18, LAW'21

[SOMETHING I LEARNED]

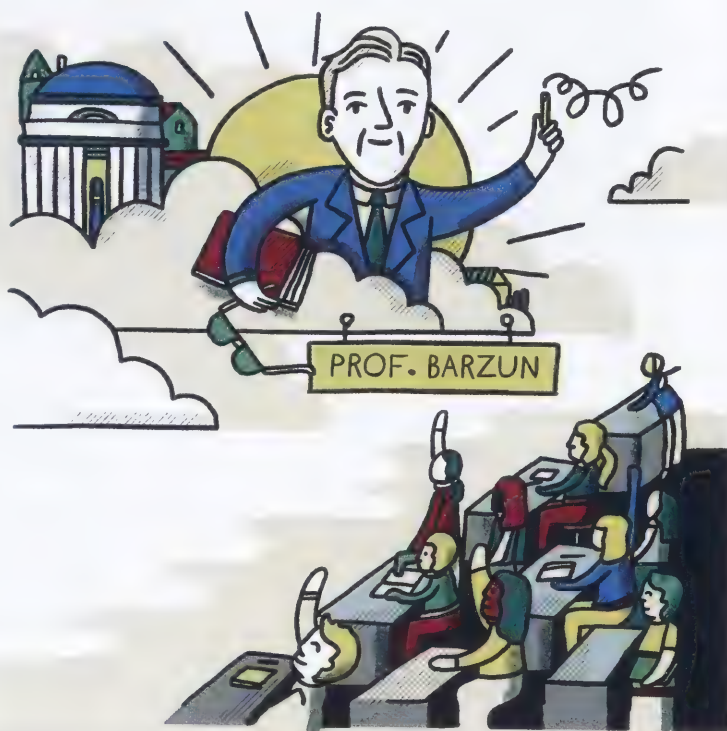
You have to ask the right questions in order to get the right answers.

— Henry Berumen '81

[FAVORITE INSTRUCTOR]

I was lucky enough to be assigned to Professor Jacques Barzun CC 1927, GSAS 1932's section for CC. His erudition and courtesy to his students so impressed the class that several of us referred to him as “The Prophet.” After a few weeks we decided that this did not do him justice. The more suitable name would be “God.”

— Dr. Jerold Schwartz '52





[CORE WRITER]

Hannah Arendt: Her thought gave me a framework to make meaning, and set upon a course of purpose, in my life.

— Adam Sieff '11

[WHAT I LEARNED]

I was brought up in a fairly strict Christian church. The Core taught me that there are philosophical ideas and principles that you can learn to live a good life by, with plenty of room for questioning and understanding.

— Reginald H. Henderson III '84

[WHAT I LEARNED]

What a gift it is to read the works that inspired generations of art, literature and thought. Thirteen years after I read *The Iliad*, my parents and I traveled to Greece. Its history and culture were brought to life by those years spent in Hamilton Hall. The pebbled foundation was once the citadel of Mycenae — can you imagine what terror and power ran through those halls?

— Avanti Maluste '08

[CORE WORK]

The Federalist Papers: The tension between the greater good and individual rights continues today.

— Dr. David Borenstein '69

[CORE EXPERIENCE]

From Gregorian chants to Bessie Smith — what a journey.

— Abe Greene '99

[CORE EXPERIENCE]

The Iliad: There was so much intricate and unique language that it was easy to just get lost in the wording.

— Bryan Uceda-Alvarez '23

[CORE EXPERIENCE]

In 1965, Professor Everard Upjohn assigned an Art Humanities paper to compare and contrast the architectural style of City Hall with that of the Parthenon. One Wednesday midday I took the subway downtown to examine City Hall and noticed a poster for the musical Funny Girl at every stop. Unable to suppress the urge, I got off the train at Times Square, walked to the Winter Garden, bought an orchestra seat to the matinee for \$9.50 and fell in love with Barbra Streisand's performance. The next day I went to Korvettes and bought all of her albums for \$1.97 each.

P.S.: I did eventually get to City Hall, and received an A on my paper!

— Alan “Buzz” Zucker '68

[CORE EXPERIENCE]

I think that the Core made me more curious about philosophy. I had a Lit Hum professor who shouted, “Why do people think they actually have a purpose? Why can't we simply exist?” He was obviously being provocative and making a point. But those questions stuck with me and made me think of my life differently. Now that I'm in my 50s, I think I better understand what the hell they were getting at.

— Dr. David Kornguth '87

[CORE WORK]

I could write a book about the Core and someday just might. Wallace Gray assigned *The Brothers Karamazov* to be read before Spring Break; I was so frustrated at its length that I decided to do no other work until I finished it. I spent two weeks doing nothing but, and it shook me up so much that I wound up learning Russian, spending time in Russia and returning to Columbia for grad school in Russia stuff. I'll read it again in 20 years and update this post. Books live and grow along with us.

— Eric Roston '93, GSAS'98



[WHAT I LEARNED]

Acknowledging the other side to an argument and active listening is crucial to understanding. But recognize it's OK to disagree.

— Brian Sarfo '17

[CORE WORK]

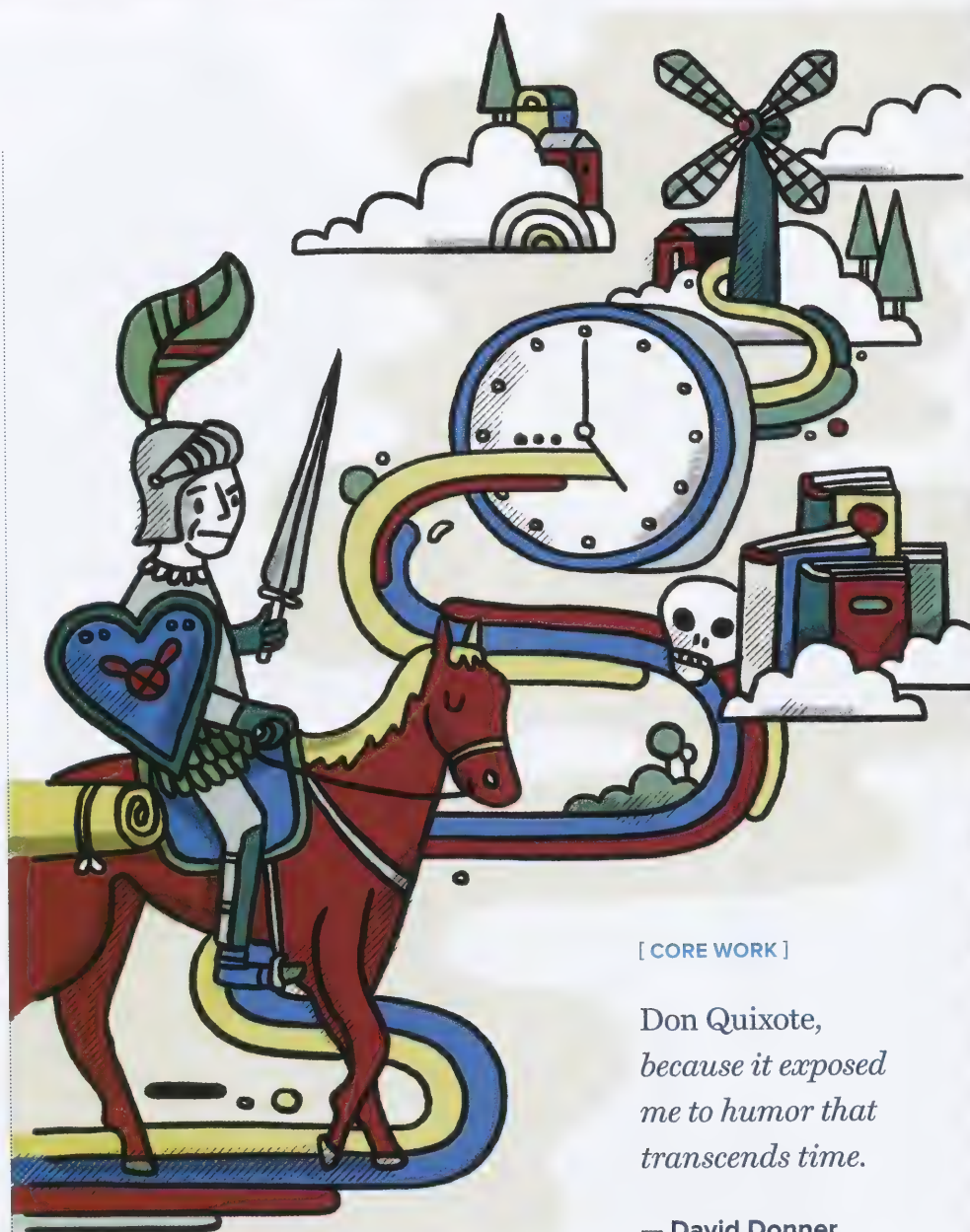
Plato's The Republic: Our Core discussions were very foundational in my learning process, and it was during these discussions that I discovered and developed my confidence in sharing my thoughts.

— Noor Habboosh '14

[CORE EXPERIENCE]

The Core Curriculum is the soul of the University. It is the place where we concern ourselves not with what we know, but with who we are. It's an invitation to look inward; the "deliverable" in the Core is a clearer vision of yourself.

— Roosevelt Montás '95,
GSAS'04



[CORE WORK]

Don Quixote, because it exposed me to humor that transcends time.

— David Donner
Chait '07, BUS'13

THE ARTIST AT WORK

Watch illustrator James Gulliver Hancock create this issue's cover:
college.columbia.edu/cct/latest/feature-extra/coreillos.

[WHAT I LEARNED]

The same things that affect me have affected scholars, heroes, dreamers and people of the world for millennia.

— Christian Palomares '22



Cathleen Price '92 was a junior pre-law in the College heading home to Denver for the holidays, thumbing through an airline magazine while the plane prepared for takeoff. Her page-flipping abruptly stopped when she came across an article about a small nonprofit legal clinic in Alabama that was defending inmates on death row. The organization had been founded by a young lawyer named Bryan Stevenson, who believed that everyone was entitled to equal justice under the law, and that the measure of a society is how it cares for its most vulnerable citizens. His legal work delved deeply into the trauma visited on the region's Black families and communities for generations. Bringing those specifics to light, he insisted, was a prerequisite for justice, both in individual cases and for society writ large.

"The article definitely struck a chord with me," Price remembers. She had studied the history of the Deep South in class, including the injustices so many had faced, and still faced. But Stevenson's work also spoke to her on a personal level. "My parents' roots are in Mississippi and Louisiana," she says, "so I had learned about the *lived* experience of racism and injustice from my family history and sense of identity, as well. What I was reading hit me with great immediacy and familiarity."

She couldn't have known it then, but Stevenson and his fledgling organization — which evolved into the nationally renowned, Montgomery, Ala.-based Equal Justice Initiative — would become the heart of her professional career.

Price did internships there as a student at Harvard Law School, and turned down offers from white-shoe law firms in New York to join EJI full-time in 1997. "Cathleen came to Montgomery at a time when it was not fashionable for people from

elite legal institutions to come to the Deep South and do this work," Stevenson says. "She helped build a foundation on which much of our work over the last 15 years has been able to grow and expand."

Through the years, EJI has provided representation to thousands of poor, incarcerated and condemned clients and mounted important legal challenges to racial discrimination in the criminal justice system. Stevenson himself has become a social justice icon. His bestselling memoir, *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*, was recently adapted into a Hollywood docudrama starring Michael B. Jordan as the young Stevenson and Jamie Foxx as his wrongly convicted death-row client, Walter McMillian.

Asked to describe her longtime mentor and colleague, Price doesn't mention charisma or star power, however. "The first word that comes to mind is *humble*," she says. "And the second, which is more reflective but no less meaningful to me, is *rigor* — the rigor of one's work, and one's commitment, the rigor in which you hold yourself accountable." She adds, warmly, "Knowing Bryan has been one of my life's blessings."

Price left the full-time EJI staff in 2007, but has continued to work closely with her colleagues there in a consulting role while maintaining a private practice in appellate law; teaching an undergraduate seminar at the College on race, poverty

**For Cathleen Price '92
and the Equal
Justice Initiative,
confronting the
past is essential
to righting its
wrongs today**

By Jamie Katz '72, BUS'80

THE LEGACY OF INJUSTICE

and criminal justice; and assisting Stevenson in a clinical law program at NYU, where he is a full professor. Asked what he would say about Price to someone who never met her, Stevenson is effusive: "I'd say that you're going to be so blown away by this smart, talented, thoughtful, creative person, who will engage you in conversation about anything and have a really informed and insightful perspective to share," he says. "She's incredibly dynamic and the kind of person that once you meet, you don't forget."

Price's legal specialty is death penalty appeals, mostly stemming from Southern states with long histories of capital punishment meted out arbitrarily or unfairly, particularly if the defendant is poor, Black, falsely accused or inadequately represented. Appeals can go on for years, with soul-wrenching ups and downs. For a lawyer, this can be difficult, grinding work, requiring an unusual skill set. "You have to be able to deal with death-row prisoners, Alabama prison guards, expert witnesses, federal judges, prosecutors," says Robert Amdur, associate director of Columbia's Center for American Studies and an adjunct associate professor of political science, who has known Price for 30 years. "It takes a real talent and a real psychological acuity."

As with mass incarceration, the roots of death-row injustice run deep — back to the eras of enslavement, convict leasing and racial terror. Capital punishment is "a stepchild of lynching," Stevenson has said.

"Why do some states have the death penalty and not others?" asks EJI deputy director Randy Susskind, who has worked closely

with Price. "Why did this person get selected to be on death row? I mean, there are hundreds and hundreds of murders a year in a state, and yet only a handful are on death row? How did we get to this place?"

Price wrestles with those questions every day as an advocate and teacher.

"If you want to understand criminal justice and therefore have a coherent and comprehensive concept of reform," she says, "you do need to understand why we do the things we do, why certain crimes are traditionally overly punished while others are considered matters that you could be rehabilitated around. And that goes right back to the construction of race in order to justify slavery in what was otherwise supposed to be a free country. The way all of that continues to play out in our criminal justice system is very raw."

Montgomery is a quiet city that nonetheless thrums with the passion of America's racial struggles, past and present. It was the first capital of the Confederate States; a statue of Jefferson Davis still stands tall before the imposing Alabama State Capitol building, where Gov. George C. Wallace gave his defiant "segregation forever" inaugural address in 1963, calling this place the "very heart of the great Anglo-Saxon Southland." Yet Montgomery also cradled the civil rights movement: Rosa Parks, the bus boycott, the Freedom Riders and the emergence of Martin Luther King Jr. The last voting rights march from Selma in 1965 culminated in a mass rally at the State Capitol, electrified by King's oratory. Rep. John Lewis lay in state there after his funeral procession in late July.

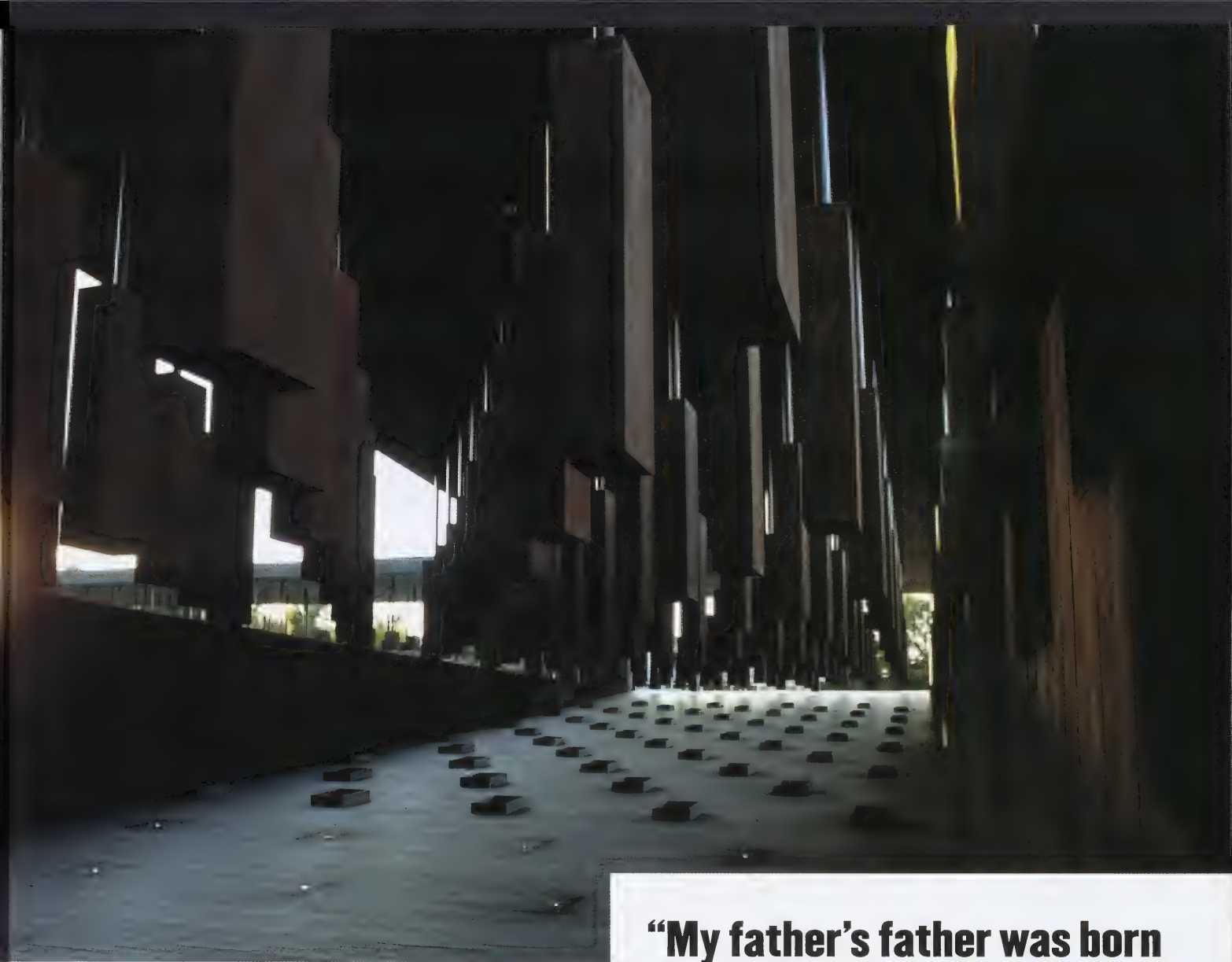
Price was involved in discussions and planning for the city's newest landmark: The National Memorial for Peace and Justice, conceived by EJI and dedicated in 2018 on a gentle hillside just a mile from the Capitol. The stark monument commemorates some 4,400 Black victims of lynching between 1877 and 1950, sometimes in remote backwoods, sometimes in town squares with white families taking in the spectacle and collecting souvenirs. A smaller monument recognizes those lynched since 1950, including Emmett Till, and a new pavilion opened this year in downtown Montgomery, commemorating more than 2,000 victims of lynching between 1865 and 1877.

The main memorial is dominated by hundreds of oblong slabs that hang suspended from the ceiling, each one engraved with the victims' names and the dates of lynching in a single county. The symbolism is chilling, calling forth an echo of terror that does not feel safely past, even while respecting the significance of each individual life and acknowledging the trauma visited on their families and communities. It is a place of solemnity and reflection, a space where visitors of all races are visibly moved.



PHOTOS COURTESY EQUAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE / HUMAN PICTURES

A chilling exhibit at the Equal Justice Initiative's The Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration (left) and one section of The National Memorial for Peace and Justice, which commemorates some 4,400 Black victims of lynching between 1877 and 1950.



EJI has engaged in an exhaustive research project documenting the atrocities, even to the point of collecting soil from known lynching sites. “This is soil containing the blood and the sweat of the enslaved people, the tears of people who were lynched, the tears of people who experienced the indignity of segregation,” says Sade Stevens, an EJI Justice Fellow from South Africa, pointing to hundreds of earth-filled jars collected from the sites. “So there really is that tangible piece through which we can trace the history.”

That history and those emotions were close at hand for Price when she attended the dedication ceremony in 2018.

“I couldn’t really talk. I think the clinical term is *overwhelmed*,” she says. “My father’s father was born a slave, so I’m only two generations from slavery. He grew up sharecropping in Mississippi, one of 20 children. They all got out. None of them were picking cotton as adults. So I was feeling all the pain, thinking of all the experiences that make you remove your life from the real hellhole for Black people that was the rural South in the 1940s and the ’50s.”

Almost in passing, Price mentions another connection. A member of her own family was lynched in Louise, Miss., in 1962.

“My father’s first cousin, Eddie Davis Jr. He was decapitated on the side of the road,” she says. “It was a trauma that was sort of unspeakable within the family. I remember asking my father about it and he wouldn’t really talk about it.”

**“My father’s father was born
a slave, so I’m only two
generations from slavery.”**

Price was born and raised in Denver, the youngest of three children of Calvin and Naomi Price; both are now deceased. He was a Korean War veteran and civil engineer who worked for the federal government; she was a registered nurse from a Louisiana family that migrated before WWI to Chicago’s South Side, where the Prices lived before moving to Colorado. “Both my parents were raised very poor, but my mother was ‘city poor’ — she was a little better off.”

The family’s majority-white, Southeast Denver neighborhood was a far cry from Chicago’s South Side. “It was a new suburb. There were large fields and a horse farm nearby,” Price says. She paints her childhood in generally happy colors, despite some racial tensions around the issue of school integration and busing. Hers was a musical household, where Duke Ellington and Count Basie reigned; they remain favorites to this day. Price herself was “very bookish,” she says. “I used to read voraciously, is the positive term. But I think it was actually defensively. I would sort of disappear into books. I was kind of lonely. Spent a lot of time at the library.”

All that reading helped propel her to the top rung of her class at Thomas Jefferson H.S., where she played volleyball and competed in

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WHITE PEOPLE ONLY



WHITE ONLY

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SEGREGATED REST ROOMS
Full Length Mirrors
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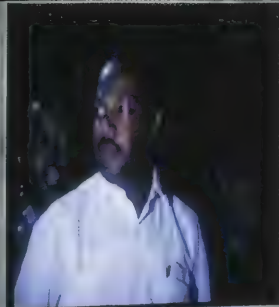
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NEGROES
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THIS PARK WAS GIVEN FOR
WHITE PEOPLE ONLY.

MEXICANS AND
NEGROES STAY OUT.

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THIS PARK
FOR
WHITE PEOPLE ONLY

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MAIDS IN UNIFORM ACCEPTED

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REST ROOMS
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OF THE BUS

VISITING DAY'S
SOUTH 531 BROAD
WHITE COLORED
SUNDAY & WEDNESDAY MONDAY & FRIDAY
MORNINGS 10:00 AM TO 11:45 AM
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PACKAGES RECEIVED
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CLOTHES PACKAGES
ONLY ALLOWED

SHOWERS

Whites Only
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NO NEGRO
OR APE
ALLOWED
IN BUILDING

NEGROES NOT WANTED IN
THE NORTH OR SOUTH
SEND THEM BACK TO
AFRICA WHERE GOD
ALMIGHTY PUT THEM TO
BEGIN WITH
THAT IS THEIR HOME

WE WANT WHITE
TENANTS IN OUR
WHITE COMMUNITY

PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL
WHITE ONLY

WE CATER TO
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track while working part-time as a babysitter, housekeeper and restaurant hostess. Price also interned at the Denver district attorney's office, where she witnessed two capital trials, her first brush with death-penalty matters. She pushed herself hard in high school, she says. "I definitely was raised in a home where you needed to have a plan."

Her plan was to attend a top-tier college in a major city, and she looked into options from coast to coast. "I got an admissions videotape from Penn with Donald Trump on the cover," she recalls. But Columbia paid her way to a minority recruitment weekend on campus, and she was sold.

"I think that I was genuinely educated at Columbia, and I'm grateful," she says. "It's a good place for oddballs," she adds, not excluding herself from the category. "There was quite a bit of non-conformity, but it wasn't actually pretentious conformist nonconformity. It was kind of a place for people who felt really awkward at the high school Homecoming."

Price especially appreciated her classes with historians Eric Foner '63, GSAS'69, Barbara Fields and Elizabeth Blackmar, and with Marcellus Blount, in English. Law School professor Kendall Thomas hired her as a research assistant; she credits him with sharpening her ability to think clearly. "I'm not sure I was that helpful to him," she says. "But I learned so much, and he was so patient with my mistakes."

Not long after Price's arrival at EJI in 1997, she was assigned to work an appellate case with Randy Susskind representing a condemned Alabama inmate named Willie McNair, who had been convicted of murder and sentenced to death in 1991. In 2004, a federal appeals court reviewed the case, heard evidence that had not been presented in state court and found that the death sentence was invalid. That ruling was later overturned. Ultimately, in 2009, McNair was executed by lethal injection, witnessed by Susskind as Price stood outside the prison gates. "We won, lost, won, lost," she says. "I think he should have won."

The McNair case was her baptism into many aspects of her life's work. "I kind of learned how to be a lawyer with him," Price says. "Not the technical part, not the substantive part. But you're sort of walking a road with a client. They don't teach you how to do that in law school."

Price grew close to McNair and members of his family. At one point, his aunt said to her, "I just want to thank you for holding on." The experience still gnaws at her.

There are victories, too. Price was on one of the successive teams that gained freedom for Anthony Ray Hinton after 30 years in prison, most of them on death row, for a crime he did not commit. Today he is a successful author and public speaker who works in community education for EJI, and a close friend of Price. His guest appearances at her College seminar are a revelation for students, she says.

Teaching and learning are close to the heart of Price's work at EJI, too. One of her important roles there has been mentoring younger staff members.

"Cathleen is a model for what it means to be an attorney doing this work, in terms of the seriousness, and professionalism, and gravity, and just the hard work that is required," says Charlotte Morrison, a senior attorney from Montana and former Rhodes Scholar who joined EJI in 2001. "As a young student coming into an



"You're sort of walking a road with a client. They don't teach you how to do that in law school."

office with lawyers like that, you just very quickly learned what was at stake. This wasn't about your own career path or your own identity — it was always directly linked to the lives that you were serving. That is the culture that Cathleen embodied and passed down to all the students like me who worked with her."

Price's life isn't all about work, though that's never too far away, it would seem. For one thing, she has a deep love of jazz, and keenly misses going out to New York's great clubs, now shuttered because of the pandemic. Then there is her pursuit of culinary serendipity.

"We've spent a lot of time on the road," Stevenson says. "She is a serious, serious foodie. I mean, at levels that are not easily managed by many people. Even after a long day of investigation or spending a lot of hours in a prison, she was always up for a small adventure if the best biscuits, fried chicken and collard greens were the rewards for that."

This was no small thing, he believes.

"It's great to have someone who was unafraid to explore all of the details of a cultural environment. We did some cases with really isolated poor Black families in the Deep South, and she was not only comfortable, but also was respectful and curious about how to learn more from the people we served. She helped us appreciate that this work is not just our struggle," he says, "it's also our life."

Former CCT editor **Jamie Katz '72, BUS'80** has held senior editorial positions at *People*, *Vibe* and *Latina* magazines and contributes to *Smithsonian Magazine* and other publications.

LEFT: Signs of Jim Crow, inside The Legacy Museum.

RADIO DAYS

By Alexis Boncy SOA'11

The dawn
of WKCR's
Jazz Age,
described by
the mavericks
who made
it happen

LONGTIME WKCR JAZZ MAN Phil Schaap '73 pinpoints the radio station's arrival as a jazz destination to the Charlie Parker Festival in August 1973. Schaap, winding up a hosting shift, put on Parker's "Scrapple from the Apple" and then left for his job at the University's ID office. He continued hearing the music in his head: "I go through Bird's solo and then Miles Davis's solo, and then Duke Jordan plays the piano solo. I come out the fire exit door on 114th Street, and I start to realize I actually hear the record

CHARLIE "BIRD" PARKER (1920–55): a blazingly fast and virtuosic saxophonist who was a master of improvisation and father of the quick-tempoed bebop style

MILES DAVIS (1926–91): monumental trumpeter and composer whose seminal albums included *Kind of Blue* and *Birth of the Cool*; though his style continually evolved, he was known for his intimate, near vibrato-less tone





COURTESY SHARIF ABDUS-SALAAM '74

ON THE AIR:

Sharif Abdus-Salaam '74
(né Ed Michael) hosting
his show in 1972.

JAZZ MAN:

Phil Schaap '73
in the WKCR
studio in 1991.



JOHN ABBOTT

again." Up and down the street, windows were open and Bird's song was in the air. "I said, 'By God, we've got it.'"

In the decades since, WKCR's reputation has grown with fans and musicians alike; the latter especially appreciate the education it offers. "What made KCR different was the substance of its programming," says renowned trumpeter and jazz educator Wynton Marsalis, adding that the musicians tuned in to learn. "You could always *hear* the music," Marsalis says.

But when Schaap first debuted on KCR — 50 years ago, on February 2, 1970 — he joined a station in transition. Musically, the offerings at 89.9 FM were eclectic but leaned into classical. It aired campus lectures, covered United Nations news, carried interviews with D.C. politicians. The sports and news departments were particularly strong; KCR delivered the live play-by-play for the basketball team's electric Ivy League championship in March 1968, only to crackle the next month with reports from campus throughout the thundering student protests.

Jazz, meanwhile, was disappearing from the popular landscape. A creative peak and audience surge in the mid-1950s and early '60s had given way to growing tastes for rock 'n' roll (its decline was represented perhaps most acutely by the death of the legendary John Coltrane in 1967). Against that backdrop, WKCR's student programmers began a deliberate embrace of the genre, inspired by its place in American culture as well as the station's literal place — adjacent to the historic jazz heart of Harlem, in a city that was itself an epi-

center for the industry. In the span of just four years, from 1969 to 1973, they laid an enduring groundwork: jazz on the schedule every day of the week; 24-hour (or longer) music festivals and birthday broadcasts that went deep into the oeuvre of a single artist; live sessions and interviews that added to and filled in the gaps of jazz history (down to minute details, thanks largely to Schaap).

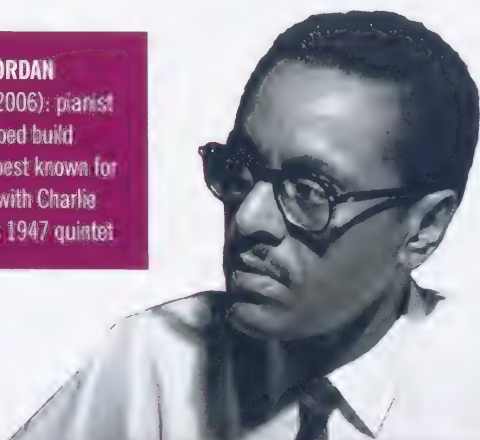
JOHN COLTRANE

(1926–67):
saxophonist and
composer whose style
changed radically from
hard bop to later, more
experimental works;
landmark albums
included *Giant Steps*
and *A Love Supreme*



DUKE JORDAN

(1922–2006): pianist
who helped build
bebop, best known for
playing with Charlie
Parker's 1947 quintet



Indeed, the famously encyclopedic Schaap, along with the ebullient Sharif Abdus-Salaam '74 (né Ed Michael), have volunteered at the station near continuously to this day. They and other contributors from that seminal early '70s period recently recalled what it was like working at the station during that ambitious, transformational time. This is their story, in their own words.

A GROWING GROUP OF INSURGENTS

TOM NESI '70, PROGRAM DIRECTOR, HOST "JAZZ ECHOES": I didn't realize before I came to Columbia that there was a professional FM radio station that I could simply join. It was just three blocks from my dorm. I started off as the correspondent for the U.N.

JAMIE KATZ '72, BUS '80, JAZZ DIRECTOR, HOST "JAZZ 'TIL MIDNIGHT": Even before I applied, I'd listen to WKCR. There was a wonderful Sunday night jazz show hosted by George Klabin '68, "Jazz 'Til Midnight." I would call in from time to time, 'cause he'd have a contest or something; so I knew him a little by phone. When I got accepted, I called him and he said, "Well, stop by the station and find me." No sooner have I arrived practically, but he says, "I have to go to Brazil" — he was from there — "why don't you take over my show?" It's like, October of my freshman year. Back then there was a bit of an apprenticeship; they put you on the AM station and you worked your way up the minor leagues. But I didn't have to do any of that. I just had this show all of a sudden.

NESI: I played jazz saxophone and clarinet for years, and I was brought up in a family of jazz lovers. My uncle George — George Van Eps, not a blood uncle, but that's what we called him — invented the seven-string guitar. He was a famous jazz guitarist in the 1930s, '40s and '50s. He used to come to our house at Thanksgiving and sit around and play for the family.

KATZ: My father, Dick Katz, was a jazz pianist, composer and sometimes producer. He was my greatest teacher of jazz knowledge. It was important to him that I understand the music — the chal-

lenge of it and the difficulty and the craft — all that it takes to be a creative musician and a working professional. So I grew up in that world; there were always musicians around and I went to hear a lot of things and was exposed to a lot of jazz. It seemed as natural as the air we breathe.

NESI: Jamie and I talked often about expanding the programming. We said we should be thinking of jazz — which, after all, is an American art form. We should give it the same credibility and exposure as we give to the Europeans.

KATZ: I thought it was important that Columbia have more of a bond with the community it was adjacent to in Harlem, and the city in general. I felt and continue to feel that jazz is a very important American achievement and a living piece of culture that should not be ignored. I had a bit of an evangelistic bent.

"It was important that Columbia have more of a bond with the community it was adjacent to in Harlem."

NESI: Of all the jobs I've ever held in my life, being program director was certainly the most fun. I didn't have a boss. I designed the entire radio programming. Though, once somebody got their own show, I didn't do much except give a helpful nod here and there.

KATZ: When I became jazz director [in fall 1969], I took it very seriously. I thought, the only way we're going to get more jazz on the air is if I recruit a bunch of really good people and we sort of flood the station. Tom created all these slots across the week. And that's exactly what we did.

MCCOY TYNER
(1938–2020): a hugely influential pianist known for his work with the John Coltrane Quartet as well as his long solo career

GEORGE VAN EPS
(1913–98): swing and jazz guitarist who invented the seven-string guitar

DICK KATZ
(1924–2009): pianist, arranger and record producer; recognized for his versatility and vast knowledge of jazz from stride-piano era to 1960s modernism

LESTER YOUNG
(1909–59): tenor saxophonist with a lyrical, relaxed style, known as much for his porkpie hats and hipster language as for his remarkable solos; Billie Holiday's favorite accompanist

Several key WKCR figures started at Columbia in fall 1969: Schaap, Abdus-Salaam, Fred Seibert '73 and Jim Carroll GS'77, then a College student. They held multiple roles and hosted various shows throughout their tenure.

CARROLL, PROGRAM DIRECTOR, HOST "JAZZ PROJECTIONS": Growing up in northwest Pennsylvania, jazz on the radio was pretty much non-existent. My introduction came mostly by way of references made by musicians I liked — I'd say, "Who's this guy Coltrane?" I'd buy a record, check it out, one thing led to another. When I got to New York, I went crazy going to the used record shops and loading up on vinyl.

Most people's point of entry to WKCR was as an engineer. You'd run the soundboard and do a station break every half-hour. I would do that sometimes for Jamie, then he introduced me to David Reitman '69, who had a show on Wednesdays. It was quite eclectic; he would play avant-garde jazz, as well as blues, and somewhat obscure R&B. There were a group of us who had these diverse interests and were curious about how they crossed over each other. We began to grow this little group of potential insurgents.

SCHAAP, HOST "JAZZ ALTERNATIVES": I had been raised by the jazz community; the pioneers of jazz were still alive then, and I had known them from literally infancy. My father was a translator for the French jazz scholars; my mother was a bohemian and a classically trained pianist. Then we moved to Hollis, Queens — that was the bedroom community of jazz. As a young child I knew Lester Young; he died when I was 8, but many others lived well into my adult life and indeed, I brought them all to KCR and did these interviews.

KATZ: I'm in my dorm room on the seventh floor of Furnald. I hear a knock at the door and there's this tall, friendly guy. He said, "I'm Phil Schaap, I live upstairs and I understand you're the guy to talk to about jazz at KCR." We get to talking and he's very personable and seems to have a great enthusiasm for jazz. I decide to give him a blindfold test; that's where a musician sits down and I.D.s a record

cold. I put on McCoy Tyner at Newport, playing a tune by Dizzy Gillespie called "Woody'n You." And he immediately got the record.

SCHAAP: He put me through my paces. Then he thought he tricked me by playing Count Basie's first record, before he developed his leaner style — but I aced that.

KATZ: And another one and another one. Finally, I put on one that I thought might stump him. By a jazz guy named Benny Carter. He gives me the date of the recording; the name of the tune; the entire personnel — including, "and on piano is Richard Aaron Katz." Nobody knew my father's full name, not even in the family; nobody called him Richard, it was just on his birth certificate. Phil even said, "Born in Baltimore on March 13, 1924, and in this solo he shows the definite influence of Basie and Ellington and Teddy Wilson," and I'm of course floored. I said, "I think you're qualified."

ABDUS-SALAAM, DIRECTOR OF THE JAZZ DEPARTMENT, HOST "JAZZ 'TIL MIDNIGHT": When I got to Columbia, I wasn't thinking about radio. I played football. But after the fall semester, I wanted to find something else to do. Something inside said, "Why don't you go by the radio station?" So I started coming in, and Jamie said, "Hey man, you ever thought about doing a jazz show?" I said, "No." He said, "Well, think about it, because I'm going abroad in May." I took over "Jazz 'Til Midnight" on Sunday nights.



DIZZY GILLESPIE
(1917–93): trumpeter, bandleader and composer who was a seminal figure of bebop; his playing presence was unmistakable as much for his great ballooning cheeks and the angle of his trumpet as for his virtuosic technique

BENNY CARTER
(1907–2003): a Renaissance man with a prolific career, he was a saxophonist, trumpeter, clarinetist, composer, arranger and bandleader; known for promoting the alto sax as a lead solo instrument in jazz bands and helping to develop the swing-era sound

COUNT BASIE
(1904–84): pianist, bandleader and composer; a towering figure in big-band jazz, he was known for his eponymous orchestra that helped define the era of swing

SEIBERT, ENGINEER, HOST "JAZZ ALTERNATIVES": I told the guy who answered the door at KCR, "I'll do anything." He said, "OK, I have a broom, you can sweep the floor." That was fine with me. Once I decide I want to do something, I'll do whatever it takes.

The first engineering role I had was a two-hour shift on Sundays. The first hour was with Jim Carroll, who had an avant-garde jazz show, and my second hour was a calypso show with a guy called Ethan 4. They couldn't have been more different. Jim's show was screeching saxophones and noise, as far as I was concerned. Every time I put on a record, I'd turn it down to almost zero so I didn't have to listen. Ethan's show was playing all the hits from the islands, Jamaica, St. Maarten or wherever. I'd been doing that for several months, and then one day I went to see a band of former jazz musicians playing what became known as fusion. I walked away transformed. The next day, I went to engineer Jim's show, and the music made sense to me. Albert Ayler, Ornette Coleman, John Coltrane, Cecil Taylor — all of a sudden I could hear the music for the first time.

KATZ: By 1970, we had a lot of people working on a lot of shows. Once Phil and the next group took over, they never let go.

"JIMI HENDRIX DOESN'T NEED US"

SCHAAP: In the week preceding classes in September 1970, there was a meeting of the people of KCR. It became clear that we could create something, on our own initiative, that would be broadcast to New York City and the metropolitan region. To use a modern term that people didn't really use in those days — this was an "opportunity."

ABDUS-SALAAM: A spot on the FM dial in New York was important.

SEIBERT: I think there were 78 radio stations in the city at the time.

SCHAAP: We decided to pursue alternative programming — we were going to present culture, primarily music, that had no commercial following; music that we thought needed to be heard.

CARROLL: We had the opportunity to fill in some big holes.

ABDUS-SALAAM: We wanted to be the most non-college, college radio station that existed. We had an AM and an FM station; the AM station was just for the dorms. So students who just wanted to play around, to play rock and stuff, could do it and have fun.

CARROLL: This was an opportunity to get some music out there that was emanating from communities that were not well served by New York broadcasting, the Black community in particular.

SCHAAP: There was an understanding of jazz's importance, its connection to the African-American experience. Commercial radio had abandoned jazz. Somebody said, "Jimi Hendrix doesn't need us. Duke Ellington and Ornette Coleman do."



DUKE ELLINGTON
(1899–1974);
legendary pianist,
bandleader and
composer who
described his works
as "American music"
rather than jazz; he
wrote thousands
of songs, including
standards such as "If
Don't Mean a Thing (If
It Ain't Got That Swing)"
and "Mood Indigo"

TEDDY WILSON
(1912–86); swing-
era pianist and
arranger known for
his sophisticated and
elegant style

ALBERT AYLER
(1936–70);
saxophonist and
innovator of free jazz,
his instrument's
squeals, honks
and yelps made for
some of the most
confrontational sounds
of 1960s avant-garde

SEIBERT: We needed to take a strong stance that jazz was the pre-eminent musical expression of its time, and that we needed to be the standard bearer for it. We had the loudest mouths in the place. I think that's what it came down to. We sort of took over.

SCHAAP: We did our first marathon festival that fall, for Albert Ayler. One show for a couple of hours is easy to miss; but this would be distinct, it was more time for people to find out about us. Who

"We had the loudest mouths in the place. We sort of took over."

else could have done 24 hours on Albert Ayler? There was no NPR; PBS was in its infancy. He's not even going to get a mention — "Albert Ayler died today" — on 1010 WINS. The marathon programming seemed a way of making a bigger splash. It also seemed more dignified and reverent. [At that time] there wasn't a lot of *reverence* for this remarkable addition to the American experience, and this African-American contribution to the American experience.

CARROLL: In 1971, I was fortunate in being chosen program director. We went to a schedule with about 40 percent each of jazz and classical. The rest was a combination of folk, blues and country, and the international music shows.

ABDUS-SALAAM: As the jazz department grew, musicians began to realize this would be a venue for people to hear their music. The first phone call I received was from a bassist, Reggie Workman. At the time he had just come off from playing with Coltrane for a number of years. He called me because he was working with some other musicians, I think based in Brooklyn, and he heard our jazz on the radio. He introduced himself and what he was all about, and said, "Man, I'm so glad to hear you're on the air."

SEIBERT: The only other station in the marketplace that was playing jazz with any regularity was WRVR, up at Riverside Church, and they only paid attention to the most mainstream musicians.

ABDUS-SALAAM: Because we were non-commercial, we didn't have to worry about what sponsors might say — "We don't like that music, or that's too far out." They basically left us alone.

AN OPEN DOOR FOR THE AVANT-GARDE

CARROLL: We had a significant renovation of Studio A, which became the primary studio for recordings and live music broadcasts. With the improvement of the acoustics and a new mixing board, it became a very viable facility.

SEIBERT: One night, David Reitman invited an actual group of jazz performers to play live on his show, and nobody wanted to engineer it. I was like, "Oh, I'm in, I'll do that." The booth couldn't have been more than 12 ft. by 12 ft. And we threw in a drummer, a vibraphonist, a trumpeter, a bassist and an alto saxophone. I was in heaven. David at this point was a professional working for music magazines, and he started inviting musicians regularly to perform. That encouraged other people to invite musicians to their shows. And, very quickly, jazz musicians were floating in and out of the place.

ABDUS-SALAAM: Schaap was my go-to sound guy. I said, "Phil, I have all these musicians coming up and we want to do a live broadcast." The band was Moudon Peace Excursion.

SCHAAP: I get there and they had 26 musicians! It was insane, there wasn't a room that could have held them at the station, even without their instruments. I had to go into Furnald and



ORNETTE COLEMAN

(1930–2015): alto saxophonist and composer who was the principal founder of free jazz; his approach liberated the music from conventional rules of harmony, tonality and structure

CECIL TAYLOR

(1929–2018): classically trained pianist and free jazz pioneer; he was known for his complex, boundary-pushing improvisations and fierce, percussive playing style



REGGIE WORKMAN

(b. 1937): versatile double bassist known for his fluidity with both hard bop and avant-garde styles; recognized for his work with the John Coltrane Quartet and Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers



start knocking on doors, asking if people had transistor radios with batteries, and could I borrow them? In the end I broke them into three separate rooms and wired them all to go live on the air. I'm still proud of it.

SEIBERT: We were bringing all of these what I'll loosely call either up-and-comers, or ignored musicians because they were avant-garde musicians, more free jazz stylists than the mainstream. Those are the people who were eager for attention.

CARROLL: They had found a lot of doors closed in their faces. Publicity at that point [was a challenge]. If you couldn't get on the radio, the options were live performance and getting your recordings into record stores. In New York you had little specialty shops down in the Village, but if you walked into Sears, you weren't going to find a lot of cutting-edge jazz recordings. The word got out that WKCR was a place your music could be heard, and where you would be treated respectfully by people who were really interested in what you were doing.

SEIBERT: Then the musicians themselves started telling each other. So when you called a musician and asked them to perform, they were like "OK, that's home for me. That's a place where I can belong and they will take care of me on some level. Village Vanguard won't give me a venue, Birdland won't give me a venue, but these people will."

ABDUS-SALAAM: We did a lot of live broadcasts in the studio, and I learned a lot from conversations with musicians. That's one of the reasons we did interviews, so people could get first-hand information. That's how we tried to grow the knowledge of this music.

SCHAAP: Sharif and Vernon Gibbs '74 interviewed Charles Mingus in 1972, that was a very momentous thing.

GIBBS, HOST "BLACK MUSIC HAPPENINGS": In high school I'd started writing about music for *Rock* magazine and other underground publications, going down to the Village and being part of that scene. On my show I would play the complete spectrum of Black music. I liked pretty straight-ahead jazz — I was more of a Herbie Hancock fan, more of a Miles Davis fan. But I was aware of Mingus's importance. And he was married to the publisher of one of the rock publications that I wrote for, so I was able to get him to agree to an interview.

ABDUS-SALAAM: Mingus had a reputation for being somewhat gruff. He wouldn't take no mess. So here we are, these two young kids, 18 or 19. He was a little late getting to the station and when we sat him down, he didn't want to be there. You could absolutely tell he didn't want to be bothered. We started asking questions and he gave one-word answers. After a while we put some music on and he said, "Wait a minute, is that me playing with Red Norvo?" I said, "Yes, it is." And he said, "Take that shit off, because he never paid me!"

Once again, I'm thinking about Mingus's reputation — what am I supposed to do? I took the needle off the record. Then he looked at us and said, "Hey, you kids are alright." And we did a two- or three-hour interview. We had a ball, he started telling stories. We had a wonderful session.

GIBBS: I don't remember him being contentious or a problem. He was polite, he answered questions directly. I remember him being a very well thought-out interview.

"The word got out that WKCR was a place your music could be heard."

CHARLES MINGUS
(1922–79): bassist, composer and bandleader who elevated the bass to the status of a solo and melodic instrument; stylistic eclectic and hard bop pioneer known as much for the force of his personality as for his musicianship

HERBIE HANCOCK
(b. 1940): ground-breaking pianist and composer; a former member of the Miles Davis Quintet, he is recognized for working in both the electronic and acoustic spheres of jazz

RED NORVO
(1908–99): bandleader known as "Mr. Swing"; credited with bringing mallet instruments to jazz, including the xylophone, vibraphone and marimba

ABDUS-SALAAM: Art Blakey, Max Roach, Ornette Coleman — the list [of people we interviewed] goes on and on. Monster musicians. Miles Davis never made it to the station, but basically everyone else who was on the scene then came through.

TELLING THE STORY OF JAZZ

CARROLL: There was a great deal of collaboration, that was one of the wonderful things. We'd throw ideas around; occasionally you'd get into a somewhat heated argument over something. It was very educational, as well as damn interesting.

SEIBERT: I never went to class. To this day I have not graduated — I majored in WKCR.

ABDUS-SALAAM: Everyone was focused toward putting out some great music on the airwaves; nobody was there for an ego trip, nobody was trying to become a radio personality. It was the right people in the right place at the right time, having the opportunity to do what we were able to do.

GIBBS: We were happy to be in our situation, happy to help the musicians. And we were happy to be part of the story of keeping jazz as, and recognizing it as, a form of classical music. That was our angle, and KCR helped us — everyone who played the music and loved the music that they played — to tell that story.

SCHAAP: On July 4, 1971, one of the listeners to the Louis Armstrong birthday broadcast was Louis Armstrong. His neighbor Selma Heraldo told me. He was bringing his stereo on a dolly out to the garden of his house in Queens. And she said, "You don't have to do all that, just put a radio up on the garden wall. They're playing your music around the clock." He turned us on and there we were.

Interviews have been condensed and edited for clarity. Ben Ratliff '90 and Jim Gardner '70 (né James Goldman) also contributed to this story.



LOUIS ARMSTRONG
(1901–71): trumpeter, composer and vocalist, aka "Satchmo," who popularized scat and was pivotal to establishing the concept of improvised solos in jazz

ART BLAKEY
(1919–90): drummer and bandleader whose thunderous style helped define hard bop; co-founder of the Jazz Messengers, an ever-changing ensemble that introduced many rising stars of jazz

MAX ROACH
(1924–2007): composer and a leading drummer of the bebop era; he rewrote the rules of drumming, shifting the emphasis for keeping the pulse from the bass drum to the ride cymbal

THEIR FAVORITE THINGS

WKCR music men share the jazz tunes they love:
college.columbia.edu/cct/latest/feature-extra/WKCR.

Riding High

Journalist Sarah Maslin Nir '08, JRN'10 investigates the lives of "horse people"

You probably recognize **Sarah Maslin Nir '08, JRN'10's** name from her byline in *The New York Times*, where she has earned a reputation as a prodigious writer. Originally a freelancer on the beauty beat, she powered her way into the *Times* by barraging the paper with query after query; she eventually became its exuberant

nightlife columnist, "Nocturnalist." In that role, Nir attended more than 200 parties, including one Fashion Week stint where she covered 25 in five days. She then became a staff reporter and began her best-known work: "Unvarnished," a 13-month investigation of worker exploitation in New York City's nail salons. The series made her a Pulitzer finalist in 2016.

Now Nir has published an ambitious and highly personal debut, *Horse Crazy: The Story of a Woman and a World in Love with an Animal* (Simon & Schuster, \$28). Nir is a committed equestrian, and her memoir makes clear how much the sport has shaped her. The book won advance praise from celebs and writers like Alec Baldwin and Susan Orlean, and was singled out as one of *USA Today's* "20 Summer Books You Won't Want to Miss."

Horse Crazy is both self-exploration and survey, at once an odyssey through Nir's own horse-obsessed life and a reporter's look at the sometimes-zany world of horse fanatics. The child of a Holocaust survivor turned prominent psychiatrist, Yehuda Nir, and his psychologist wife, Bonnie Maslin, Nir had the toniest of Upper East Side childhoods. She attended a blue-chip school (Brearley) and summered in the Hamptons. But her cushy lifestyle wasn't always a comfortable fit — Nir was all fidgety energy; to her older parents, immersed in high-profile careers, this was definitely a problem. They decided to solve Nir's restlessness with horses. She writes: "Putting me on a moving horse would be the secret to getting me to sit still. ... On a horse, I could be as hyper as I itched to be but unable to skitter out of sight. ... They had no idea what their clever plan would set in motion."



ERIN O'LEARY

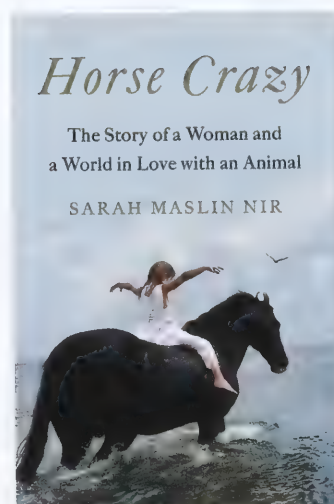
As Nir and her parents found out, horses are challenging beasts to love and ride: Pain is part of the deal. Nir's story of her first bold cantering atop a towering horse is also the story of her first fall, an accident that narrowly missed being fatal. She learns to control the animals — and excel at equestrianism; Nir trains at the prestigious Claremont Riding Academy, works in tack shops and competes in shows as a teenager. At 17, just six weeks after breaking three vertebrae in her back (and being told she could no longer ride), she is back in the saddle at the Hampton Classic, clearing jumps and finishing second in her 60-person event. "To fall off is to ride," she writes, and adds: "Perpetual pain is part of my life." A reader can't help but feel that her childhood rides were an early education in daring — preparation for the courageous journalism that has become her trademark.

As well as providing what her psychiatrist father might have approvingly called a sense of mastery, riding also gave Nir the emotional sustenance she needed as a child. In the moving chapter "Benediction," she admits that she became closer to horses because she couldn't be close to her three much-older brothers. "In the barn, I was grateful to be in the company of creatures who, unlike my family, had nowhere else to be but by my side," she writes.

Nir understands that many riders feel as deeply about horses as she does, and part of her book revolves around her fellow fans and the horses that have captivated them. She visits a crowded competition in Leesport, Pa.; details the wild-pony colony on Assateague Island, Md.; and, most movingly, sidetracks into a little-known part of American history, via the Museum of the Black Cowboy. Nir makes the point that horses are a key part of our country's ongoing story — "furls of an American flag in equid form, imbued with our narratives of national identity. They carry on their backs the tales we tell ourselves about who we are."

What's next for the adventurous Nir? After a rotation for the *Times* in West Africa, writing about terrorism in Benin, she is hoping to work as a foreign correspondent, something she tells *CCT* she was "born to do." And does she dream of owning a stable filled with horses? Her answer is mischievous: "I have a fantasy of breeding a polka-dot horse and competing among all the glossy fancy horses in the Hamptons one day," Nir writes. "Its name will be 'Outrageous!'"

— Rose Kernochan BC'82



Chapter 1

"We're horse people!" my dad said roundly one afternoon when I was about seven years old. Back then, he smoked cigars, truly committing to the antique Viennese vision of the crusty smoke-shrouded psychiatrist. I liked it, because he would give me the thin paper rings from around them, and I would put them on my fingers as he puffed and pretend I was betrothed to some Cuban-loving knight. I sat at his feet. My thirteen-year-old brother, David, squawked his clarinet somewhere in the distant confines of our country house. "They've been in our family for generations!"

My ears pricked. Even at that age I understood and loathed that my entrée into the sport was as an outsider. Everything about me was, a way of being in the world inculcated into me by family lore, by the narratives that tethered and constricted like sinews running taut through my life.

Externally, I appeared every bit part of the life my parents had devised for me, but that never occurred to me for the long years of my youth. I felt like an interloper, a spy, in my elite private school, Brearley, where it seemed I was the only one out of the 656 girls who brought kosher lunch meat on field trips and asked in the cafeteria if the soup contained pork. I felt like an outsider even as my address was 1050 Park Avenue because my mother was born out of wedlock, illegitimate issue of an illicit rendezvous of an Irish nurse and a Jewish doctor. She was abandoned by them, given up for adoption to my grandpa and grandma. Grandpa David and Grandma Frieda, the offspring of immigrant Russian Jews, found themselves the instant parents of a green-eyed, flaxen-haired babe. Her narrative of abandonment, of being a stranger in a strange land, interlaced with my own.

But mostly it was because even in my plush life, it felt like we were still in hiding, so crisply is trauma

transmitted through generations. My father's early experience of being concealed in plain sight from the Nazis somehow felt to me that it continued on Park Avenue. I hoped our lavish address was the ultimate armor. Who could rip us from our lives again when we presided over the turret of the castle of the world?

Sometimes I woke up nights in my room in the back of the kitchen, worried the Gestapo — a word I had so often overheard while playing with plastic horses under the dining room table that to me it just meant boogeyman — had come. Other times I was afraid to explain to the blonde and barretted competitors in the short-stirrup, or kiddie, arena that I had been absent from a competition because it fell on Yom Kippur. I had muddled in my baby mind that their Aryan phenotype meant they were actual Nazis. There is a joke in my family that you can't have a meal finish without someone mentioning the Holocaust: sometimes when no one has brought it up yet and dessert is scraped clean, someone will yell "Holocaust!" and we will laugh and push out our chairs and leave the table.

Looking back, it's not very funny.

I felt like an outsider because my dad was old and didn't know the rules of baseball. He was emphatically a foreigner. When he moved to America, he arrived at his first Fourth of July party dressed in a tuxedo because he had assumed that the celebration of the birth of the nation was an occasion that called for formal wear. And where American dads watched baseball, my father's spectator sport was opera.

Second only to his love of Giuseppe Verdi, Giacomo Puccini, and Georges Bizet was his love of bragging about how little he paid for a seat to hear opera. He'd go solo to Lincoln Center most weeknights in New York's winter. There, he'd hang out by the dancing fountain at the center of the plaza and try to spot the love-lorn — those who'd been stood up by opera dates and had a ticket to sell. He would approach them only minutes before the curtain rose. The seller would suggest \$100; my father would hold up a crumpled \$20. A few moments later, Dad would usually be snug (and smug) in the front-row velvet by the time the orchestra raised their quivering bows.

My father's favorite aria is from Verdi's *Aida*: "*Ritorna Vincitor*." Return of the victor. Dad viewed his successful life as a magnificent victory lap, but I viewed it as tenuous. The success my parents had both amassed, despite their brutal beginnings, was not truly ours, I felt. It all seemed contingent, ephemeral, and liable to vanish. Just like my father's bourgeoisie life had when the Nazis invaded and murdered my grandpa. Just like my mother's biological parents had themselves vanished. How could I possibly belong to my family's new life?

I think about why I chose horses to devote my life to, and I think of the soft muzzles and limpid eyes and thrumming heartbeats that so draw me to these animals. But trained by my Freudian father, I can't help but think harder and unpack all of what equestrian sport

represents in my society. It is the sport of kings and Kennedys, a pursuit dripping with elitism and Americana. As the progeny of immigrants, of people who did not belong to this land, I was claiming rights to the leisure of the Other. "Ralph Lauren was born a Jewish boychick from the Bronx named Ralphie Lifshitz!" my dad would tell anyone who would listen, and indeed it is true. Ralph understood my need to take cover, to escape the *shtetl*, or Jewish ghetto, for the safety of the *ubermensch*, to camouflage in their cashmere and jodhpurs.

So when Dad casually tossed out the fact that our family were horse people that summer day, my heart leaped. Dad had a string of catchwords and phrases he used ad infinitum, both in conversation and in his practice where he treated both Upper East Side elites and Jews from my city's own shtetls: Crown Heights, Borough Park, and Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Because he was a polyglot, he was sought after by the city's ultraorthodox, the Hasidic Jews who live in those insular enclaves where Yiddish is the vernacular, to treat them in the languages they spoke. He saw them largely for free, palming the poorest of them subway fare to flee their ghettos of Brooklyn for his office down the street from our apartment at 903 Park Avenue. Under their head-coverings, fur *shtreimels* for the men and *sheitels*, wigs worn for modesty to hide women's own hair, was strife — just like any other New Yorker. Often it was underscored and exacerbated by the repression demanded by extreme religious observance.

For them, Dad offered his favorite diagnoses-by-catchphrase. One was "A sense of mastery." What we were all looking for, Dad said, was the feeling that we achieve only by mastering something, and he exhorted his patients and me to take full command of our lives. Those endemically human feelings of being lost, rudderless, unmoored, Dad believed, are the result of not giving oneself permission to seek out mastery. Fully living was not just making one's place in the world, he said, but mastering it.

"Belonging and not belonging" was another favorite — a paradox that he believed was the root of so many of his patients' suffering. For the largely impoverished Hasids, belonging and not belonging was the struggle of remaining pious anachronisms in a modernizing society. In his own daughter, belonging and not belonging was inescapable as well. It was why my mother had torn up the wiring on the grandiose toe buzzer beneath the dining room table in the Park Avenue apartment. She was *in* the apartment but not *of* it, her actions insisted.

I experienced it as an essential tremor of unworthiness, an electric current that pulsed one word like neon behind my eyes: *outsider*.

From the book *HORSE CRAZY: The Story of a Woman and a World in Love with an Animal* by Sarah Maslin Nir. Copyright © 2020 by Sarah Maslin Nir. Reprinted by permission of Simon & Schuster, Inc.



alumni news

Columbia University, New York City.



A POSTCARD FROM THE PAST

Take a stroll back in time with this vintage illustration of campus from 1915. As part of West 116th Street, College Walk was still an active route for vehicles (it was rezoned as a pedestrian walkway in 1953), and Dodge Hall and Miller Theatre were not yet built. The Superintendent's House, a remnant of the campus's former life as the Bloomingdale Insane Asylum (before Columbia moved to Morningside Heights in 1897) is visible in front of Lewisohn. The house was torn down in 1922 to make way for Dodge.

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Take your best shot at captioning this illo by R.J. Matson '85.

Creating Community as a Light in Dark Times



By Ted Schweitzer '91, LAW'94

To quote the popular band R.E.M., "It's the end of the world as we know it and I feel fine!"

But do I feel fine? And if not, what can I do?

More importantly, what can we do together, as Columbia College alumni? College lasts only four years, but on average we are alums for more than 60.

I embrace my new role as president of the Columbia College Alumni Association. As this is my first column in *CCT*, let me introduce myself. I graduated with the great Class of 1991. I blame one too many good times with my classmates for my decision to stay another three years on campus at the Law School. I have been on the CCAA Board of Directors for more than 10 years, focusing on alumni engagement and fundraising.

In times of turmoil we all feel a renewed urgency to promote the ideals of fairness, opportunity and freedom of expression that underpin the University's mission.

As you know, the College offers one of the most inclusive undergraduate experiences in one of the most diverse cities in the world. Last year 50 percent of Columbia undergraduates received need-based financial aid, at a total of \$174 million. Eighteen percent of Columbia students are the first generation in their families to go to college and more than 50 percent of Columbia students self-identify as persons of color. As alumni, we can contribute to their and all students' experiences through greater engagement with student life and mentoring.

The pandemic has shifted our mindset to a more community-centric one. Each of us is more aware of the greater good, even through the simple gesture of wearing a mask. You can see it daily on sidewalks around the world, and definitely here in New York City. In my CCAA

role, I aim to tap into ongoing technological advances, like better digital venues for remote programming, as well as the diverse talents and perspectives of our alumni, to strengthen the College community.

While many of us continue to hunker down in semi-isolation, we try to grapple with questions of injustice in any way we can. We take advantage of new forms of gathering online and the benefits of not commuting, which frees up time. Some of us are suffering loss. Uprooted from our regular routines, we reevaluate what's important, as time itself presents differently. Did Labor Day just happen, or was it Memorial Day? Imagine being a first-year who jumped from virtual high school graduation to virtual Convocation, Orientation and classes!

In conclusion, I think back to Lit Hum, one of our shared academic experiences. I could quote the lofty Thucydides, Heraclitus or Boccaccio, but instead I turn to the grittier French existentialist Albert Camus. His words on solidarity from his timely novel, *The Plague*, strike a chord: "No longer were there individual destinies; only a collective destiny, made of plague and emotions shared by all." Today we too inhabit a time of upheaval and pronounced interconnectedness. We continue to see the College as a source of light in what is now a darkened world. I can't think of a better time for the CCAA community to reengage more fully and give back. And while we do, let's not stop roaring!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Schweitzer".

P.S. I welcome your feedback: tedschweitzer100@gmail.com. Please stay safe.

A CCAA Conversation with Khadijah Sharif-Drinkard '93

In June, I sat down with Khadijah Sharif-Drinkard '93, an entertainment attorney for ViacomCBS (BET Networks) who often uses her platform to advocate for diversity, equity and inclusion. Khadijah is also an active leader with the CCAA and president of Columbia College Women; her enthusiasm for CC always inspires me. Given the race and social justice issues that currently command our attention, I invited her to have a conversation about these ideas through the perspective of New York City, the College and the Core.

Tell us a little about yourself, both growing up and now. I understand you had connections to Columbia early on.

I grew up just 10 blocks from Columbia, in the Manhattanville Housing Projects. I spent a lot of time on campus with my mom, who would bring my siblings and me — there were six of us — to sit on South Lawn and take in a college setting, and then later in high school at the Double Discovery Center. Today I lead a bicoastal team of attorneys and legal professionals who are charged with acquiring and protecting the intellectual property for ViacomCBS. I am



grateful for the experience I had as a Columbia student because it prepared me for a world in which I would have to negotiate a number of identities that were ascribed to me as I climbed the ladder to success.

How did the Core Curriculum prepare you to think critically about race and identity?

I had professors who allowed and sometimes encouraged me to explore ideas from Black authors in the context of Core assignments. For example, I juxtaposed Plato's *Republic* against Martin Luther King Jr.'s ideas of justice and character of the city-state in his fight for civil rights.

Through the Core I sought to understand the history and experiences of people whose journeys differed from my own, both when studying the texts and in real life with my classmates. It was through the Core that I developed my listening and debating skills. I learned that many of the issues that Black activists raised were not unlike the issues that were raised in the texts written by white males that we were studying. The rights that Greek philosophers espoused are the same rights that we continue to fight for as Black people in this country. I also understood that many civil rights leaders were well versed in the texts that we read, so if I was going to be a critical thinker and offer something constructive in the realm of race and identity, I too needed to understand the Core.

Columbia has frequently convened with thought leaders around issues of race and justice — for example, through the Eric H. Holder Jr. Initiative for Civil and Political Rights, which has the motto “living the Core and advancing justice.” In this climate of tense racial relations, do you see any pitfalls we must avoid as a community that welcomes all voices?

In order for us to “live the Core,” it has to be representative of our diverse experiences because we cannot live that which we cannot see. So, while we aspire to advance justice through our scholarship, actions and debate, there have to be respectful rules of engagement, which entail the civility we are all entitled to when exchanging ideas. I encourage us to lead and speak with empathy. I am a fierce advocate of free speech, but with the freedom to speak is the burden of responsibility for what that speech will do to and for others. Civil debate can be encouraged through exemplifying the best ideals of civil discourse; by showing students, faculty and alumni that we can work together for the greater good of humanity despite our differences.

How can alumni engage in making a society that's more just, and more equitable?

I believe that it is our duty as alumni leaders to have the difficult conversations in our circles. As president of CCW, I led a board discussion right after the death of George Floyd so that we could all express how we were feeling. I did not want to shy away from this difficult and painful conversation. I wanted to lean into it and have my fellow board members understand how painful it was for me to watch a Black man be murdered in such a cavalier way. And I asked everyone who participated in the discussion to care for one another as we all struggle to understand what this social construct of race has done to our human family.

I also wanted us to acknowledge that there are subtle forms of bias that are at work in our everyday lives. Systemic racism exists in



COURTESY KHADIJAH SHARIF-DRINKARD '93

every academy and industry; we have to name it when we see it and be more intentional in order to fight against maintaining the status quo. As graduates of this great institution, we all have a responsibility to fight for a more equitable and just society. We should be doing it on campus, as we share our wisdom and experiences with current students. And we should be doing it in the larger society by making the changes we know need to be made if we are going to collectively win.

For alumni who wish to do more in this arena through the CCAA, what do you recommend?

Alumni should reach out to the CCAA (ccalumni@columbia.edu) to learn how they can become part of the anti-racism work that we are committed to doing. We all have an important role to play as alumni, and one of the key areas is as mentors through the Odyssey Mentoring Program. Imagine if all of our almost 52,000 alumni used their influence and power to help students chart their course; there would be nothing that we could not accomplish together. Although we are still in the midst of a pandemic, there are a number of virtual events that we can participate in with students and fellow alumni like book clubs, panels, “lunch and learns,” and welcome events for new students.

Speaking of mentoring, can you share any advice you would give your two daughters as they navigate growing up in these times?

I want them to know that this is a journey and that there will be pivots and pitfalls along the way — but that is often where we find the greatest lessons and opportunities. Failure is the precursor to any true success.



LILLIAN HUTTON

Keeping New Yorkers Safe in a Crisis

By Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN'09

As deputy commissioner of the New York State Office of Public Health, **Brad Hutton '92** has seen a lot during his 26-year career. From Superstorm Sandy to measles, vaping to H1N1, Hutton's department has developed strategies to contain and treat public health threats and keep residents safe and informed. As coronavirus spread across New York in March and April, the state faced its biggest health crisis in a century, but Hutton and his team were ready to fight: "I feel like I've prepared my entire career for this moment," he says.

In the early days of the outbreak, when much about the virus remained unknown, Hutton and his staff, who are based in Albany,

put in long nights and weekends working on research and messaging. He notes that the Wadsworth Center, New York State's world-renowned public health lab, developed its own antibody test and diagnostic tests early in the outbreak, while the Office of Public Health's contact tracing initiative worked to identify and contain new clusters of COVID-19 across the state.

For Hutton, the response has been a testament to the importance of trusting in the scientific community. "We're guided by science," he says. "As each day and week elapsed and we learned new things about this virus — how it was transmitted and what we know about immunity — we continued to make policy decisions based on the



science. And that's how we always are, whether it was Zika or Ebola. It's not new for us in public health to have an emerging pathogen; this one just happens to be affecting the entire world."

Hutton notes that New York State poses unique public health challenges, as it is home to the densely populated New York City, extremely rural upstate communities and everything in between. "We can't use a cookie-cutter approach," he says. "We're always having to fully understand the population impacted by a public health problem and develop an appropriate intervention or solution." With that in mind, Hutton's office is currently focusing on preventing the state from reverting to where it was in the early days of the pandemic, when New York City and Westchester County were the epicenter of the outbreak. His team is creating travel advisories and quarantine guidelines for people coming into New York from other states, and building contingency plans for school reopenings to ensure the risk of outbreaks is reduced. Hutton's team is also preparing deployment plans to implement large-scale vaccinations as soon as a viable one becomes available.

Hutton acknowledges that "pandemic fatigue" is a major concern as the outbreak continues. "Mask use, good hand hygiene, staying home when you're sick, social distancing — these are really simple things. When we see mass gatherings and parties, even in some parts of New York State, it is upsetting."

Hutton had a passion for health from a young age, and was recruited by Columbia to play football as an offensive lineman. (He fondly recalls the team breaking its 44-game losing streak in his

first year, and the student body carrying the goalposts down Broadway in celebration.) He was on the pre-med track, but when he didn't get into medical school, he researched other options and fell in love with the field of public health. Hutton earned an M.P.H. from SUNY Albany in 1994, and started work at the New York State Office of Public Health. He initially worked in cancer control, investigating clusters of breast, cervical and colorectal cancers, then moved to researching infectious diseases. He has been in his role as deputy commissioner for four years. "One of the great things about the job is the variety," he says. "I have not had a dull day."

Before the COVID-19 outbreak, the Office of Public Health had several major wins under Hutton's leadership. In June 2019, after a statewide measles outbreak was traced to clusters of non-vaccinated students, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo signed a bill that ended religious exemptions for vaccines. Concerned about the effects of vaping and its target demographic of younger users, the Office of Public Health also pushed for a ban of flavored vaping products. Signed into law by Cuomo in April, the ban took effect on July 1. "New York State is incredibly progressive when it comes to public health," Hutton says. "It's a dream state to work in."

Hutton notes that while his team prepares for vaccine deployment, Americans should focus on self-care and stress reduction, and adhere to safety recommendations like mask-wearing and social distancing. "There are local, state and federal health departments that prepare for this," he says. "There's a lot of expertise to rely upon — listen to and heed the advice of that expertise."

Anthony "Ace" Patterson '11 Makes Music on His Own Terms

By Nathalie Alonso '08

In February, just weeks before coronavirus shut down the country, rap artist **Anthony "Ace" Patterson '11** released an EP that was, coincidentally, titled *Working From Home*. The collection, which speaks to Patterson's experience juggling corporate and musical careers — he also has a full-time job with YouTube — surpassed one million streams on Spotify.

In late June, the nationwide protests in support of the Black Lives Matter movement inspired Patterson to release *Working From Home Extended* — five songs that explore themes of survival amidst a global pandemic, racial injustice and social unrest. He donated the proceeds from pre-sales to Faith in Action's Live Free campaign, which works to prevent gun violence and mass incarceration.

Patterson began writing lyrics when he was a middle-school student in Bridgeport, Conn., where, at one point in his childhood, he lived in a shelter. In 2016, he founded his own music label, Light Armor Music. Three years later, under the alias Call Me Ace, he released his first album, *Airplane Mode*. It debuted at number 3 on the iTunes Top 40 US Hip-Hop Album Chart and at number 50 on the Billboard Top R&B/Hip-Hop Album Sales Chart.

Patterson describes his music as "uplifting," while pointing out that "it's definitely not bubblegum; it's real-life stuff."

"I understand what it means to come from nothing and have to overcome adversity," he adds. "It's a consistent theme in my music."

Patterson attributes his love of music to his mother, a Jamaican immigrant who would have him and his siblings perform songs by Boyz II Men, Whitney Houston and Michael Jackson. He cites hip-hop legends Snoop Dogg, DMX, Busta Rhymes, Ludacris and Young Jeezy among his musical influences.

"There's a lot regarding cadence, rhyme schemes, confidence and authentic storytelling that I took away from them," says Patterson.

As a College senior, Patterson opened for Snoop Dog at Bacchanal's Spring Concert. The Columbia University Society of Hip-Hop, which Patterson co-founded in 2009 with Mpho Brown '12 and Jon Tanners '11, beat seven other musical acts to land the coveted gig.

"I never felt like I couldn't perform in front of 26,000 people, but knowing that I did, it's like, 'Cool, I know I can do that,'" says Patterson.

By the time he took the stage on Low Plaza, however, Patterson was at a crossroads. He found himself at odds with the themes of



RENÉE LOPEZ

hip-hop, which he notes often include drug use and chasing money and women. "I didn't want to rap anymore," Patterson says. "I didn't necessarily like or connect to the things I was rapping about."

After graduation, Patterson quit music for about four years. He was pursuing an M.B.A. at UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business when a childhood friend convinced him to pick up a microphone again. In his final semester, he and a classmate recorded a parody song dedicated to the school, titled "YOHO (You Only Haas Once)," that was well received by his fellow students.

"That's what made me say, 'Oh wow, maybe there is a unique lane for me in the music business,'" says Patterson.

Patterson lives with his wife in the San Francisco Bay Area, where he previously worked at Facebook and is now a global program manager with YouTube's creative and development team. In that role, he designs and oversees initiatives that help creators and artists scale and monetize their work. All the while, he's constantly looking to use the knowledge he's gained in the corporate world to broaden his own audience.

"The way I see it, I'm just getting started," he says.

CCT Print Extras

Watch the music video for "Still Dark Tho," from *Working From Home Extended*:
college.columbia.edu/cct.

Nathalie Alonso '08, from Queens, is a freelance writer and an editorial producer for *LasMayores.com*, Major League Baseball's official Spanish-language website.

This CEO Gives "Evil" a Good Name

By Rebecca Beyer

In 2019, global revenue in esports — the catch-all name for an industry built around competitive video gaming — topped \$1 billion, with more than 440 million people tuning in to events streamed live around the world. That's a bigger audience than pro football and rugby combined, and growing fast thanks to fans looking for alternatives in the COVID-curtailed world of traditional live sports.

In May of that year, **Nicole LaPointe Jameson '16** became the first African-American woman to lead a major esports organization, taking over as CEO of Evil Geniuses. She had her work cut out for her: Founded in 1999, the company — essentially a group of players and teams who compete in different video games under the Evil Geniuses moniker — was considered "storied, but fading" according to *Forbes*, which named LaPointe Jameson to its "30 Under 30 - Games 2020" list. LaPointe Jameson, whose background was in management of distressed assets, knew she had to make a major move, fast. She set her sights on fielding a team for the massively popular League of Legends game — a multi-player fictional arena in which "champions" with unique abilities battle other players — both to diversify Evil Geniuses's fan base and expand revenue potential.

She gave herself two years to accomplish the goal; she only needed four months. Last fall, Evil Geniuses landed a spot in the

League of Legends lineup from developer Riot Games, outbidding traditional sports owners and media conglomerates, and reportedly paying more than \$30 million for the privilege.

LaPointe Jameson counts the successful bid among her proudest accomplishments at Evil Geniuses. About eight million people log in daily to League of Legends; Evil Geniuses finished third out of 10 teams in the spring 2020 playoffs.

LaPointe Jameson has never waited long to make her mark. She received a job offer from the investment firm PEAK6 during the summer of her junior year at the College. Once on board, she helped turn around companies in fields ranging from online dating to insurance before setting her sights on Evil Geniuses as a "diamond in the rough." She was hoping for a seat on the organization's board. Instead, after months of due diligence preceding PEAK6's purchase, she was named CEO. She was 25.

"A lot of my first two months was listening," she says.

She also worked such long hours that she kept a sleeping bag at the office.

"There was a solid six to seven months where I did nothing but work," she says, laughing. "It was the furthest thing from being easy and enjoyable. If I didn't love where I thought we could be, I wouldn't have done it."



RIOT GAMES

At the College, LaPointe Jameson was drawn to numbers, studying statistics, quantitative research and applied data mining. She chose Columbia in part because of the Core Curriculum; one of her favorite classes was a Core course in the ethnography of Caribbean and Afro-Latin music with Professor Chris Washburne GSAS'99. For her final project, she gathered empirical data on the impact of prison music programs.

"It was so memorable," she says. "I appreciated that I was given the freedom to take the course in my own direction."

She's taken Evil Geniuses in her own direction, too.

Since she arrived, LaPointe Jameson has rebuilt the Seattle-based organization from a group of less than 20 men into a team of nearly 80 people, including a new office in Los Angeles that opened in late 2019 (two other Columbians have leadership roles: Brian Millman BUS'14 is director of corporate partnerships and Saira Mueller JRN'15 is director of marketing).

The esports industry has recently had to confront accusations of sexism and discrimination; LaPointe Jameson has increased efforts to recruit more diverse players and staff. Evil Geniuses already had Ricki "HelloKittyRicki" Ortiz, a transgender Street Fighter player; in March, LaPointe Jameson signed Dominique "SonicFox" McLean, the highest-earning fighting game community player of all time, who identifies as non-binary. She also instituted a culture of support that includes parental leave and a player wellness program, and in June, Evil Geniuses launched the podcast LiveProud to discuss social issues (the first episode was devoted to Black Lives Matter).

"We make the market we want to exist in," LaPointe Jameson says. "People know that if you are the best of the best, you will have a home at Evil Geniuses, regardless of your race, creed or religion."

As a young Black woman in a male-dominated field, LaPointe Jameson knows what it's like to be overlooked.

"I've continually put myself in spaces where I'm not the expected individual," she says. "At the end of the day, I try to surround myself with people who know it's about the work output: Do you win?"

Rebecca Beyer is a freelance writer and editor in Boston.

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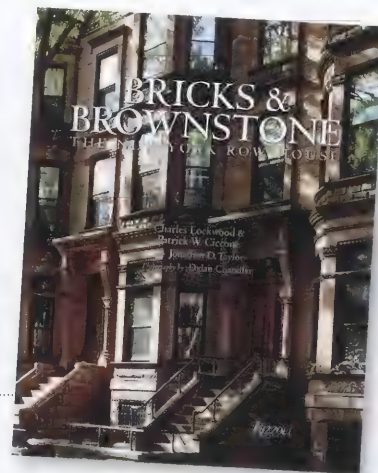
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bookshelf

A Renovated “Brownstone Bible”

By Jill C. Shomer



When you think of a beautiful New York City neighborhood, do you picture a leafy street studded with brownstones? Featured in countless films, shelter magazines and real estate pages, row houses in communities such as Harlem, the Upper West Side, Greenwich Village, Park Slope and Bed-Stuy have been admired for almost two centuries.

If you can't stroll these streets yourself, a sumptuous volume makes for a lovely escapist fantasy. The third edition of *Bricks & Brownstone: The New York Row House* (Rizzoli, \$85), known to its legion of fans as “The Brownstone Bible,” has recently been updated by **Patrick W. Ciccone '03, GSAPP'08**, a historic preservationist and real estate development advisor.

Ciccone had big shoes to fill: The seminal first edition, published in 1972 by architectural historian Charles Lockwood when he was just 24, helped to renew interest in the 19th-century row houses that now define the landscape in historic New York City neighborhoods. Rizzoli published an expanded edition in 2003. Ciccone, along with preservationist Jonathan D. Taylor GSAPP'13 and photographer Dylan Chandler, has modernized the latest edition with revised text, reconfigured chapters and specially commissioned color photography and design.

Ciccone met Lockwood in 2006 during his first semester at the Architecture School, when Lockwood was looking to hire a student with editing experience. Ciccone had majored in comparative literature at the College, but had always been interested in architecture (he is a native of Charlottesville, Va., known for its Jeffersonian buildings). “When I came to Columbia, I had an *ALA* [American Institute of Architects] *Guide to New York City* and I would bike around all over the city to look at buildings and neighborhoods,” he says.

In 2008, Ciccone and Lockwood made plans to work together on a new edition of *Bricks & Brownstone*, but the recession hit and the plans were shelved. Ciccone worked for a year on Lockwood and his brother John Lockwood's book *The Siege of Washington: The Untold Story of the Twelve Days That Shook the Union* (2011), then reconsidered the *Bricks & Brownstone* update. But by that time Lockwood was too ill to proceed, and he passed the mantle to his colleague.

Lockwood died in 2012. “Charles wanted the book to live on, and was generous enough to allow me to take over and shape it as I saw fit,” Ciccone says.

As a preservationist, Ciccone was excited to take on the massive project. “My interest in architecture has been how buildings come together to form cityscapes, and row houses are a great example of that,” he says. “I think that ‘average’ buildings — brownstones, apartment buildings, tenements — form cities in a way that ‘great’ buildings often don’t.”

Bricks & Brownstone needed to evolve, because the brownstones themselves have. In the 19th century, brownstones housed single families; when they fell out of favor for high-rise apartment buildings, they were easily divided up into apartments. But in the past few decades, the pendulum has swung again in the other direction, with many brownstones housing higher-income single families. “In being so simple, row houses have proven to be very adaptable,” Ciccone says.

A major change from the earlier editions is the photography. The 2003 edition included some new color photos as an insert; after Ciccone started working with photographer Chandler, they realized they had to re-shoot everything. “I scouted most of the locations on my bike over a couple of years, in historic districts in Manhattan and Brooklyn,” he says. “Then I let Dylan loose with notes and addresses.” Getting shots of houses without cars in front was a significant challenge, with only a narrow window of time that Chandler could shoot them — especially the wide shots — successfully. “In a way, the whole book is an essay about compliance with alternate-side parking,” Ciccone laughs.

“I want readers to be forced to see the city only as houses — without other types of buildings, so slightly abstracted,” he says. “I want people to be shocked by how beautiful and amazingly diverse row house streetscapes are.”

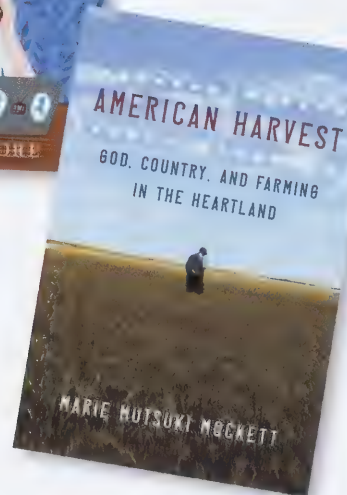
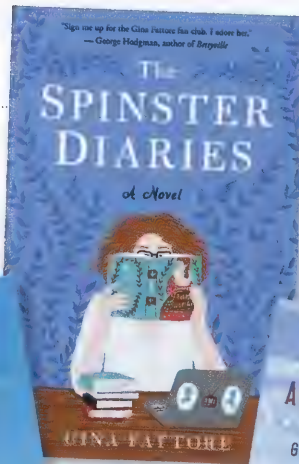
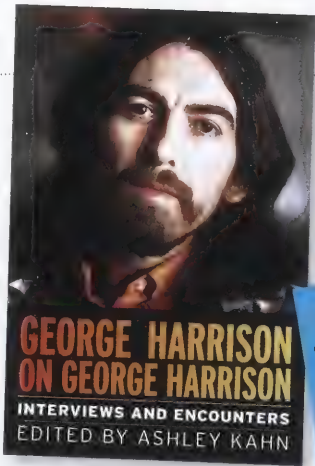
But for Ciccone, the main challenge of *Bricks & Brownstone* was creating something that would both honor Lockwood's memory and satisfy loyal fans of the earlier editions. “The book has such a giant reputation that it was almost frightening,” he says.

“In some ways, this has been like the ultimate preservation project,” Ciccone muses. “You have an existing classic with great bones, but it's in need of work and revamping. It's really a work of historic preservation in book form.”



CCT Print Extras

Check out a selection of *Bricks & Brownstone's* stunning photos at college.columbia.edu/cct.



Tale of an Unlikely Pediatrician by Dr. Paul Winick '59. Winick describes his ambivalent struggle through medical school and the ultimate joy and success he found as a pediatrician (AuthorHouse, \$20.99).

Between the Lines: My Stories as a Conductor and Tennis Umpire by Stanley Sperber '63. Sperber combined his passions for classical music and tennis into an unusual dual career (Independently published, \$11.99).

Complex Systems in Medicine: A Hedgehog's Tale of Complexity in Clinical Practice, Research, Education, and Management by Dr. David Aron '71. How knowledge of complex systems in clinical medicine can help physicians and health care providers (Springer, \$59.99).

Poverty and Welfare in America: Examining the Facts by David Wagner '72. Wagner's book aims to clarify some of the most contentious and misunderstood aspects of

American poverty and social welfare programs (ABC-CLIO, \$65).

Inside the Empire: The True Power Behind the New York Yankees by Bob Klapisch '79 and Paul Solotaroff. The authors take a deep dive into the Yankees's clubhouse, dugout and front office (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$28).

Between Lakes by Jeffrey Harrison '80. Following the death of his father, Harrison, the author of six books of poetry, explores the spaces between the living and the dead, and the ways that time can shape lives and alter relationships (Four Way Books, \$16.95).

George Harrison on George Harrison: Interviews and Encounters edited by Ashley Kahn '83. Though known as "the quiet Beatle," this anthology of Harrison's words and ideas suggests he was the most thoughtful and outspoken of the Fab Four (Chicago Review Press, \$30).

City at the Edge of Forever: Los Angeles Reimagined by Peter Lunenfeld '84. How Los Angeles began the 20th century as a dusty frontier town and transformed into a supercity with unparalleled cultural, economic and technological reach (Viking, \$28).

Hollywood Double Agent: The True Story of Boris Morros, Film Producer Turned Cold War Spy by Jonathan Gill '86. Gill, a profes-

sor of American history and culture at the University of Amsterdam, reveals that the Academy Award-nominated Morros, a major figure in the 1930s and '40s, also worked for Russian intelligence (Abrams, \$27).

Beyond Contempt: How Liberals Can Communicate Across the Great Divide by Erica Etelson '89. The author provides detailed instructions and examples that explain how to communicate respectfully, passionately and effectively with people who have differing political views (New Society Publishers, \$18.99).

The Spinster Diaries: A Novel by Gina Fattore '90. In this chick-lit satire, an anxious, self-described spinster finds inspiration from an 18th-century novelist and diarist (Prospect Park Books, \$16).

American Harvest: God, Country, and Farming in the Heartland by Marie Mutsuki Mockett '92. Mockett accompanies a group of evangelical Christian wheat harvesters through the Nebraska panhandle and contemplates the politics of food and the culture of the Great Plains (Graywolf Press, \$28).

The Golden Prison by Paul Alexander Sangillo '93. In this legal mystery, an eager young attorney discovers that his new boss may be involved in a murderous scheme (Red Sky Presents, \$14.95).

A Planet of 3 Billion: Mapping Humanity's Long History of Ecological Destruction and Finding Our Way to a Resilient Future: A Global Citizen's Guide to Saving the Planet by Christopher Tucker '94. Tucker makes the case that Earth's carrying capacity is limited to three billion humans, and that cataclysm awaits if we don't pay down our "ecological debt" (Atlas Observatory Press, \$29.99).

Ms. Marvel's America: No Normal edited by Hussein Rashid '96 and Jessica Baldanzi. A group of scholars discuss the significance of Kamala Khan, the first Muslim superhero, known as Ms. Marvel (University Press of Mississippi, \$30).

Threat of Dissent: A History of Ideological Exclusion and Deportation in the United States by Julia Rose Kraut '03. Kraut, a lawyer and historian, provides a comprehensive overview of the intersection of immigration law and the First Amendment (Harvard University Press, \$35).

Modernism on the Nile: Art in Egypt between the Islamic and the Contemporary by Alex Diga Seggerman '05. The author analyzes the modernist art movement that arose in Cairo and Alexandria from the late 19th century through the 1960s (University of North Carolina Press, \$34.95).

— Jill C. Shomer

SUBMIT YOUR BOOK TO CCT

Alums! Have you written a book in the last year? Tell us about it!

college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_bookshelf

classnotes



SCOTT RUDD

Thinking of a time when we can be together on campus again.

1940s

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Wishing the members of the classes from the 1940s, and your loved ones, good health during these uncertain times. If you would like to share news in the Winter 2020–21 issue, please send us an email at cct@columbia.edu.

1950

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

No news for this issue. Classmates would enjoy hearing from you!

Please send us an email at cct@columbia.edu. Stay safe, and be well.

1951

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

David Kettler GSAS'60 writes: "I write two weeks after my 90th birthday, which we had to celebrate with no more than a Zoom presence of our three daughters. Hannah has a Ph.D. in industrial economics and is a director of vaccine financing; Katherine has an M.S. in social work and a J.D. and is director of legal investigations at Intel; and Ruth Finkelstein, my oldest, has an Sc.D. and is executive director at CUNY Hunter's Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging.

I am more proud of the work they do than of the titles they bear.

"Last summer, on my 89th birthday, I published a lengthy study of Franz L. Neumann, the political theorist who'd been my principal Columbia teacher in graduate school; this year, I am publishing a collection of translations dealing with the theme 'first letters from exile,' finishing a group project I initiated some years ago.

"As I assess my strengths and weaknesses at this point of my life, I surmise that these are my last academic studies. It has been a rewarding journeyman career. Columbia be thanked. And my wife, Janet, above all."

Classmates would enjoy hearing from you, too. Please send us an email at cct@columbia.edu. We wish



you good health during these challenging times.

1952

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Bob Reiss got in touch: "I was a starter on the 1950-51 basketball team, which is in the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame; am a past president of the Varsity C Club; am the recipient of the 1971 Athletics alumni award; have been a guest speaker at the Business School for 24 straight years; and am a founder of 16 companies.

"I'm working on a marketing test that revolves around giving away thousands of digital copies of my book *Bootstrapping 101: Tips to Build Your Business with Limited Cash and Free Outside Help*. It is for anyone who can benefit from it, entrepreneurs or wannabes. Here is a link to a piece by a professional reviewer, someone whom I think read the book carefully: bootstrapping101.com/professional-review-of-bootstrapping-101.

"To download a free copy, go to bootstrapping101.com/author. The lower part of the page has a picture of the book and a sentence in red: "Download a complementary copy of Bootstrapping 101." Click either the picture of the book or the red words and you will be taken to a page that asks for your email address, to which we will quickly send the download. Easy. The people you are directing to this book and who read it will thank you.

"Here is a link to an article on me in the Harvard Business School *Alumni Bulletin*: bootstrapping101.com/trivial-matter."

We also heard from **Carl Meier** PS'56: "As you can all imagine, with COVID-19 added to my age of 89,

my life has been a little quieter. Crossword puzzles and 1,000-piece puzzles have replaced Bridge, picking up meals at the dining facilities has replaced Pickleball, and going for car rides has replaced attending concerts and movies. Our life care community of 2,500 has been generally spared the coronavirus, with only seven positives since March (as of early July). We are indeed fortunate.

"Our lecture series and concerts are presented on either our own TV channels or on Zoom. We miss traveling and in particular seeing our seven children and 13 grandchildren, but fortunately have weekly Zooms, which bring us a great picture of them all. We got started a little late on kids but have three of the seven lining up for retirement. Who would have believed in June 1952 that we would be in our 90s and have children retiring? We were blessed with good health and an excellent education at Columbia that prods me to continue exploring the history of the United States and white racism. I wish all continued good health."

Please send *CCT* your news, too! Classmates would enjoy hearing from you. Please send us an email at cct@columbia.edu. Be well.

1953

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

In case you missed it, the Summer 2020 issue of *CCT* was online-only. Type "college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/summer20/article/class-notes" in your search bar, and then type "1953" in the open box, and you will see an update from **Larry Harte**.

Please be well and take a moment to send your news to us via email at cct@columbia.edu.

1954

Bernd Brecher
brecherservices@aol.com

This year started so innocently. Obviously, I knew *nothing*. So this will be remembered as the Year of Coronavirus, while we hope that 2021 will be able to stay clear of that moniker.

Now, an info alert to all '54 classmates, particularly those even less techie than I. If, despite several

COLUMBIA SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS

BC	Barnard College
BUS	Columbia Business School
CP	Pharmaceutical Sciences
DM	College of Dental Medicine
GS	School of General Studies
GSAPP	Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation
GSAS	Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
HN	Institute of Human Nutrition
JRN	Graduate School of Journalism
JTS	Jewish Theological Seminary
LAW	Columbia Law School
LS	Library Service
NRS	School of Nursing
PH	Mailman School of Public Health
PS	College of Physicians and Surgeons
SEAS	The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science
SIPA	School of International and Public Affairs
SOA	School of the Arts
SPS	School of Professional Studies
SW	School of Social Work
TC	Teachers College
UTS	Union Theological Seminary

previous alerts, you are still waiting for the Summer 2020 issue of *CCT* to reach your mailbox, listen up: That issue, because of COVID-19 budget cuts, was digital only, so here is what you do: Type "college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/summer20/article/class-notes" in your search bar, and then type "1954" in the open box, and *voilà!* you're in. Email me at brecherservices@aol.com if you have any questions.

So-o-o-o-o-o, welcome back Class of Destiny and let us all begin to plod forward to our 70th anniversary reunion, which might be held on the moon if not some more mundane place here on Mother Earth. A lot will depend on the wit, whims and wisdom of our Reunion Committee, so please start to volunteer now. Any ideas? True, those of us left will all be over 90. So?

"Weinstein Judge Blocks a Payout, Calls \$12 Million in Legal Fees 'Obnoxious'" broadcasted the headline over the second lead above the page 1 fold of *The New York Times* on July 15. Our class's judge, Hon. **Alvin K. Hellerstein** LAW'56 of the Southern District of New York, once again ruled in his inimitable way in a singular case that had attracted wide attention. "Expressing deep skepticism," the *Times* reported, "a federal judge ... upended

a \$25 million proposed civil settlement between Harvey Weinstein, his former film company, and dozens of women who have accused him of sexual harassment and abuse.

"In a scathing 18-minute phone hearing," the paper continued, "Judge Alvin K. Hellerstein of the Southern District of New York picked apart the class-action lawsuit at the heart of the deal, suggesting it was misconceived." He suggested that the women might pursue individual cases, discussed how much their allegations varied in severity, and questioned whether the group met the definition of a legal class. By the end of the call Judge Alvin denied a motion for preliminary approval of the agreement, in essence scuttling it.

Gentlemen, stay tuned. There is much more here that we will try to bring up to date in the Winter 2020-21 issue; or, even better, don't wait; try googling on your own.

Breaking News: As this column went to press, Judge Alvin did it again with a top of the page 1 fold, second lead headline in the *Times*: "Cohen Is Target of Retaliation, A Judge Rules." From the article: "... I make the finding that the purpose of transferring Mr. Cohen from furlough and home confinement to jail is retaliatory, the judge, Alvin K.

Class Notes are submitted by alumni and edited by volunteer class correspondents and the staff of *CCT* prior to publication. Opinions expressed are those of individual alumni and do not reflect the opinions of *CCT*, its class correspondents, the College or the University. By submitting to Class Notes, you acknowledge that the text is eligible to appear in print as well as on *CCT* Online and in archives.

Hellerstein of Federal District Court in Manhattan, said in court. And it's retaliatory because of his desire to exercise his First Amendment rights to publish a book and to discuss anything about the book or anything else he wants on social media and with others."

The *Times* went on to say that "Judge Hellerstein's decision was a remarkable rebuke of prison and probation officials and, by extension, the Trump administration."

Much more to come that you will have read about before this issue of *CCT* is published.

Bob Weber SEAS'55, SEAS'56 writes, "When my wife of 56 years died in 2017, rather than downsize from a large home, I invited a daughter and two smartphones with grandchildren attached to move in. I can report that the 'generation gap' is real. But good to have family around during the pandemic isolation. The efforts of the cultural arts community to open its archives of operas, concerts, dance and theater is much appreciated and has made the isolation from friends and family bearable."

Bob hopes it is not too long until he will be able to visit other daughters and family in Paris and Nogent-sur-Vernisson but says, "Yay, Skype and FaceTime." He had been working in the kitchen at the Kingston Senior Center on the Meals on Wheels program before the coronavirus put it on hold, but keeps involved in local library, environmental and historical organizations with trustee meetings using Zoom.

"Last year among these '54 Class Notes," writes **Ed Yeaker**,

"there was a typically poignant and humorous commentary from **Saul Turteltaub** LAW'57 re: 'being old,' and reflecting on Saul's words, led me to express my thoughts in the following poem," which Ed sent me before learning of Saul's death earlier this year:

WE'RE STILL HERE (Class of Destiny)

I read a moving rhyme ...
about the passing of our time

Tho' summoning a tear
It shouted we're still here

With aging there's dealing
For the days we're stealing

A blessing that's been granted
Not to be taken for granted

Still thinking of you all ...
Most especially, in the fall.

After learning of Saul's passing, Ed wanted to share with classmates his deep sadness amid reminders about Saul's gratitude for their early friendship as Saul's career began to bloom.

Thanks Ed, for sharing your thoughts and for your heartfelt verses.

William F. Haddad JRN'54 died on April 30, 2020 at 91. A classmate reported that he had earned two Columbia degrees in June 1954, one from Columbia College and one from the Journalism School. Bill had registered at both schools and simultaneously completed all requirements for both degrees. But Columbia's administration had not noticed until his name appeared on two lists of graduates-to-be. They then told Bill, "No, you can't do that." Bill retorted that he had violated no Columbia regulation or by-law and stuck by his guns. He prevailed. (Columbia later amended its rules prospectively.)

His widow Susan informed us that **Ronald F. Thompson** passed away on January 21, 2020. Ron had graduated from Yale Law School and spent most of his legal career in various positions at United Technologies. Our sincerest condolences to Susan and the family.

Vito R. Vincenti LAW'57 died on July 21, 2020. His son John '90 writes, "He was to the end an avid reader, a lifelong learner, and a supporter of the College. His

experiences as a student were very dear to him." Our condolences to his widow, Edna, their two sons and a large extended family.

Seymour Hertz LAW'56 died on May 24, 2020. He was a corporate partner at the law firm Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison until his retirement and of counsel to the firm at the time of his death. Sincerest condolences to his widow, Elaine, and family.

[Editor's note: See "Obituaries" for more.]

"He was a mentor and friend to many in our class," writes **Larry Kobrin** LAW'57 about Professor Henry Graff GSAS'49, who died on April 7, 2020, at Greenwich Hospital at 98 of COVID-19 complications. "He was the last of the professors I remembered from College. He was wonderful and alert the last time we saw him at a class function."

Several classmates alerted me to Professor Graff's passing, and I share here a short bio from the history department: "A distinguished scholar of United States history, particularly the history of the presidency, he received his Ph.D. from our department in 1949 and continued on the faculty until his retirement in 1992. He won the Mark Van Doren Award and Society of Columbia Graduates Great Teacher Award, and was granted an honorary doctorate from Columbia in 2005. Newer faculty will recognize him as the benefactor behind the fourth-floor faculty lounge in Fayerweather." [Editor's note: See "Around the Quads"/"In Memoriam," Summer 2020.]

Book Beat: Our class's photographer and storyteller extraordinaire, **Ted Spiegel**, has two new e-books to offer, *Access: A Photojournalist's Search for Storytelling Photos* and *Renaissance Florence: An Invitation*, for Marist College, both a joy to read, look at and learn from.

Henry Buchwald PS'57, physician, surgeon and inventor extraordinaire, reports that his latest book, *Surgical Renaissance in the Heartland: A Memoir of the Wangenstein Era*, has been published. It has already received excellent reviews in the Twin Cities.

"My wife, Ann Louise, and I fled the Washington, D.C., heat for our rustic 'camp' in northern New Hampshire," writes **Edward Cowan**, where "there has been little

COVID-19 in Coos County, up against the Canadian border, and we felt safer there than we might have in D.C., and cooler. We swam in Forest Lake, took in live music concerts outdoors, read books, pursued email correspondence, participated in Zoom discussions of books, mowed the grass, and had several visits from our daughter, Emily, who lives in Concord, N.H., and her daughter, Ada (16), the oldest of our five grandchildren."

Sounds like a tough quarantine and a great survival technique, Edward!

He also reports that he speaks frequently with **Brian Tansey**, who lives in the Twin Towers retirement community in his native Cincinnati. Ed says Brian continues to take an active interest in Democratic politics in Ohio and nationally, and that Brian is in regular contact with his daughter, Eira, who is on the faculty of the University of Cincinnati Libraries.

From me, **Bernd Brecher** JRN'55, our granddaughter Samantha Savitch — an incoming fourth-year at Thomas Jefferson Medical School — has had a paper for which she was lead writer recently published on esophageal cancer and minorities' surgery survival rates. She has a way yet to go to catch up with **Henry Buchwald**, but we're still proud of her.

Miserable Moms, a hilarious picture book for adults about the trauma of booting your kids out of the nest on their way to college, is not yet available for sale but can be previewed on social media. The narrative is uncensored and the illustrations are delicious. Oh, did I mention the author, Sharon Brecher, is my favorite DIL? She did work for Disney once.

Thanks for getting this far in our '54 Class Notes. Once again there will not be a test, but if you think you deserve a lollipop just let me know. It's been a tough year in many ways for us all, more so for classmates through no choice of their own who are living alone in lockdown.

We all hope there are ways each of us can help others to better cope until these "troubles" are behind us. Helping others helps ourselves, so I repeat here my admonition in this column to do good and help cure the world. Be well, do well, do good, be good, write, call, email, don't forget each other. Luv to all, Bernd. Excelsior!

Stay in Touch



Let us know if you have a new postal or email address, a new phone number or even a new name:
college.columbia.edu/alumni/connect.



1955

Gerald Sherwin
gs481@juno.com

The last several months have been focused on the COVID-19 virus. Columbia was locked down, and there are no winter sports coming up, such as football practice or basketball practice. There are also no alumni events, so we can't see familiar faces like **Jack Freeman** and **Dick Kuhn**, and there were no class dinners with regulars like **Berish Strauch**, **Allen Hyman**, **Marvin Winell** and **Sheldon Wolf**. We hope to get back to normal soon.

Stay tuned for make-up reunion news shortly.

There hasn't been much activity, as the school was under lockdown. Classes will remain online for the fall semester, but we hope winter sports will restart.

We heard from **Jim Amlicke** from Redondo Beach, Calif.

Everyone wear a mask. Stay safe. Be careful. Be prepared. Love to all. Everywhere!

1956

Robert Siroty
rrs76@columbia.edu

No luncheons to report, no pictures. But a lot of news. To start, Margo and I are celebrating our 61st wedding anniversary as we hunker down in Somerset, N.J.

I will accept ideas for favors for our reunion. Suggestions so far are 1) an autographed copy of a book by an alumnus who will speak at reunion; 2) a picture frame with the '56 logo; 3) a souvenir walking stick with the '56 logo; 4) a face mask with the '56 logo.

I had a call from **Dick Spann** SEAS'57, in Lancaster, Calif. After a career with Solid Rocketry, Dick went to law school at Marymount University. Eventually he became a municipal court judge, then a justice of the California Superior Court. He broke his arm in January, and was still recuperating in May.

Hope it is healed by reunion in June 2021.

Howard Sturtz reports that he is "alive and well" in Walnut Creek, Calif., sheltered in place

during the pandemic and hoping to retire later this year from an orthopedic surgery practice.

Taylor Thompson SEAS'57, BUS'70 reports from Kingston, N.Y., where he is chairman emeritus of Millrock Technology. His son, Taylor Jr., is president and is working with a few pharmaceutical companies in developing a "freeze-drying system to process THE vaccine" as soon as they finish developing it ... you can't wait until the last minute to complete the whole process! Fortunately, some researchers think ahead."

Fred Strassburger SEAS'57 is retired from designing and building process plants all over the world, and lives in Stratford, Conn. He is looking forward to the Columbia-Yale games at the Yale Bowl Stadium in New Haven with Mel Holson '46.

Marty Mayer LAW'59 and his wife, Susan, are hunkering down in Florida. He writes that after publishing four books of poetry, three of them original social commentary limericks (the most recent is *Limerica The Beautiful*), "I have drawn upon my 25 years of experience as a commercial lease auditor representing tenants only to author an esoteric manual addressing plain language conceptual misunderstandings in landlord-prepared commercial leases. It should be out in a couple of months and will be of benefit to corporate leasing executives and attorneys with no commercial construction background. The title is *Traversing the Commercial Lease Minefield*."

Buz Paaswell SEAS'57 is remotely teaching one class daily on policy. He is also watching old Yankee games on TV, and "they always win."

Ron Kapon recently finished his last Zoom wine class, and will forgo the fall semester as classes on wine do not "lend themselves to Zoom." He reports that when the weather is nice, "I sit on the bench across the street from my apartment, and read for an hour or so."

Art Salzfass reports that he and his wife, Janie, "are living in a wonderful retirement community outside San Francisco." He is learning to play the ukulele with a 114-member ukulele band and is looking for tips, ideas and fun songs from classmates. Art is in touch with **Alan Press**, **Morty Jaffe**, **Danny**

Teitelbaum and **Art Tepper**, whom you can be sure can be relied upon to "critique his singing."

Larry Cohn writes, "I have moved to a very active (when life returns to normal) 55-plus community. The golf course opened recently, with many restrictions. Looking forward to the 65th."

Grover Wald writes, "These days I pursue a daily routine of stretching and light weight exercises, an hour's walk, reading a combination of relaxing and stimulating books, watching great lectures on DVD from the Great Courses and never-ending work on a vintage tugboat model."

I heard from **Ed Smith**, in Cambridge, Mass., who retired as chair of the radiology department at UMass Medical School, then went back to work part-time for another 10 years. He is in contact with **Burt Sultan**, **Elliott Urdang** and **Herb Klein**.

Dan Link is still in Florida, as of this writing. He says he is waiting until the "coast is clear to return to New York."

John Censor is staying home.

The News-Press of Southwest Florida reports: "When **Lee Seidler** was a student at Columbia, he remembers walking around campus and seeing buildings named after figures in the American Revolution. 'I never imagined that I would walk around and see a Seidler Hall. ... Nor did my father.' Academic Building 7 — the building that houses the College of Arts and Sciences at Florida Gulf Coast University, was renamed Seidler Hall ... in exchange for a financial gift that Lee (80), his wife, Gene, and Lee's daughter, Laurie, made to FGCU."

Jack Katz still practices psychiatry, with a mask on. He is hoping to play tennis soon, and is looking forward to the 65th.

Jay Martin has watched 54 operas on the Metropolitan Opera nightly stream, in addition to the 300 he has watched in person. He has retired from teaching after 64 years at Yale, UC Irvine, Moscow State University, USC, the UC Irvine School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry & Human Behavior, Claremont McKenna College and the University of Hawai'i. Jay maintains a private psychoanalytic practice. He has written 31 books, and is writing another, *The Psychologies of Political Exile*. Jay has also testified before Congress while

working with the State Department. He says, "None of this would have occurred had I not attended Columbia College. I married five days after graduation, and have remained married for 63 years."

Ken Swimm SEAS'57 writes, "I can't help but remember the golden days of the Class of '56 and what's transpired since then. I was reminiscing with **Neil Klein**, my best friend since kindergarten, as he was rapidly failing. After remembering first dates, friends, football (we were the managers), subsequent jobs, marriages and families, we came to the following conclusion: 1) We hadn't changed; 2) The younger generation was going to hell; and 3) We had lived in the best of times. OK, we hadn't lost some of the smart-alec Bronx background."

Mike Spett is hunkering down in Florida, thinking back to the February luncheon in Boynton Beach where 15 of us (plus guests) gathered for what he describes as the "best ever."

Murray Watnick, who recently had a "nice chat" with **Frank Thomas** LAW'63, has retired from clinical radiology and has completed work with the World Health Organization as a temporary advisor. His work is on the internet at "Radiology for the People: A Basic Radiological System for Health Care in Developing Nations." You can read it by going online to bit.ly/3f9SDk4.

Alan Broadwin SEAS'57 sent me a copy of a photo of The Lyceum Society (retired members) of The New York Academy of Sciences featuring volunteer VP **Ralph Kaslick**.

Henry Bamberger and his wife, Sheila, celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary. Henry continues to sit on the ethics committees of the two Utica, N.Y., hospitals and Hamilton College. He shares, "For fun, I am a docent at the Utica Zoo."

Got a great note and picture from my med school roommate **Frank Neuberger**, in Maryland, of his great-granddaughter.

I am sad to report the death of **Theodore Lindauer**. Ted was a Harvard-trained child psychiatrist who specialized in treating troubled teens, helping them into productive adult lives.

If you did not get the blast email in April, please let me know your current email address, and let the Alumni Office know as well (college.columbia).

edu/cct/update_contact_info). You don't want to miss the details of our 65th reunion in June 2021!

1957

Herman Levy
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I hope you all had a pleasant and safe summer. We heard from **Harry Siegmund**, who noted that *The New Yorker* recently republished an article by Charlayne Hunter-Gault, originally published on December 30, 1967, "Columbia's Overdue Apology to Langston Hughes." The article reported, "Seven months after the death of the Black writer, Professor James P. Shenton [49, GSAS'54] acknowledged at a memorial ... [that there] lived a poet down the street from Columbia, and Columbia never took the time to find out what he was about."

Harry commented, "I do not know why *The New Yorker* is republishing this now ... 99 years after Langston Hughes sought to move into Hartley Hall. Jim Shenton is mentioned; I took one seminar on historiography in which he was the lowest-ranked professor. He was very deferential to Fritz Stern '46, GSAS'53. I forget the name of the middle-ranked professor. Jim made his mark as a storyteller with an emphasis on lower New York City in the first half of the 20th century."

1958

Peter Cohn
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As I write this column in early July, New York City is reopening after 100-plus days of restricted activities due to the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to the firm leadership of Gov. Andrew Cuomo (whose daily news briefings were must-watch TV) and the cooperation of millions of city and state residents with mask wearing, physical distancing and nonstop handwashing, we finally flattened the curve, while the rest of the country outside the Northeast is now experiencing the brunt of the pandemic. The social isolation felt from many days of sheltering in place (or its equivalent) were at least

partly mitigated for my wife, Joan, and me by the hours spent on Zoom and FaceTime with family and friends. The "cocktail hours" with classmates and their spouses were especially helpful in minimizing feelings of isolation.

Now for class news: A special shout-out to **Bob Levine**, who published his sixth (!) nonfiction book in May. *The Uninformed Voter* deals with the sorry state of politics in the United States. After beginning with a well-referenced review of how we got where we are today, Bob offers suggestions for what can be done to improve citizens' awareness and responsibilities in our electoral process.

On the sad side, I was notified by **Ira Carlin** and **Mark Weiss** on the passing of **Larry Harris** on May 20, 2020. Ira had been in the Naval ROTC with Larry and maintained a friendship with him through the years. After graduation from the College, Larry served in the Navy until 1962 and received a law degree from Georgetown. He spent most of his business career in the telecommunication sector. He became president of Metromedia, general counsel of Telegent and senior counsel at the law firm of Squire Patton Boggs, and was subsequently appointed to the board of directors of MCI, where he had begun his career in 1972 as an executive at the then-fledgling firm. Larry was a longtime champion of Democratic Party activities, and is remembered for "his big heart and keen sense of humor." He certainly will be missed. Condolences to Susie, his wife of 58 years, and their two children and four grandchildren.

Dr. Charles Goodstein died on April 30, 2020, from complications of COVID-19. Charles grew up in Manhattan and attended Stuyvesant H.S. He graduated from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and served as a medical officer in the Air Force. His professional career was spent as an adult and child psychoanalyst in Tenafly, N.J., while on the clinical faculty at NYU School of Medicine as part of the Psychoanalytic Association of New York. Charles enjoyed a variety of cultural and recreational activities, and was very much involved with his family. He was married for 58 years to Dr. Carolyn Goodstein, and is also survived by two children and two grandchildren. Condolences to all.

We were notified by **Bernard Goldstein** of another death: "**Norman Herzberg** died suddenly on March 29, 2020. He earned a doctorate in mathematics from MIT in 1965 and was employed by the Institute for Defense Analyses in Princeton from 1968 until his retirement in 2000. In addition to his professional skills, he was a good friend."

Bernard adds that Norman is survived by his wife, Barbara; brother, Edward; and sister, Susan. Our condolences for their loss.

[Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

As far as intercollegiate sports are concerned, the Ivy League canceled fall events but has not decided on winter and spring sports as of this writing. Likewise, we are not sure our class luncheons will have resumed by the time you read this column. If you are interested in attending one of the Tuesday sessions, please contact **Tom Ettinger** for the latest news: tpe3@columbia.edu.

1959

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I write these Class Notes with a heavy heart. Our country is experiencing a crisis of epic proportions. More than 100,000 people have died here in the United States in a cruel pandemic that is taking more lives every day. The pandemic obviously has had its impact on Columbia: in-person classes were suspended; Class Day, Commencement and reunion were held virtually; *CCT* decided not to publish a Summer 2020 print edition; and students were sent home, probably for the first time since the Revolutionary War when Alexander Hamilton CC 1778 left to join Washington and the Continental Army. Then, as now, the government seems unable to effectively respond to the legitimate needs of the people to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

As I write this, I suspect many of us are more or less confined to our homes, venturing out carefully and infrequently, while relying on others to procure for us the necessities of life. This is hardly how I hoped, or expected, to spend the remaining years of my life.

I am sorry to report the death of **Wally Katz** GSAS'61. I thank

Ken Scheffel for passing along the following information: "Wally contracted COVID-19 in a nursing home while awaiting elective surgery for a vision problem. He responded well to treatment and was about to be released back to the nursing home when he died suddenly (probably of a heart attack). Divorced without children, he left no family, just some close friends. He spent his career in college teaching (including stints at Wesleyan and Vanderbilt) and in Democratic Presidential administrations (including, I believe, both Carter and Clinton), and at the time of his passing, held some sort of adjunct position at SUNY Stony Brook. I wish I had better news to report."

David Horowitz reports, "I have had the unexpected pleasure in old age of having written two Amazon bestsellers, at ages 80 and 81, and receiving an endorsement from the President about the latest. The books are *Dark Agenda: The War to Destroy Christian America* and *Blitz: Trump Will Smash the Left and Win*. The latter book is a detailed account of the seditious campaign by Democrats to overthrow a duly elected President and sabotage their own country. It also attempts to provide an explanation of why Trump has been able to prevail despite being the most vilified and slandered human being in history. I'm used to the fact that people on the left — so-called liberals — deal with arguments they don't like by suppressing and/or ignoring them, but I invite classmates to engage in a civil exchange about this book and prove me wrong. I will print the exchanges on my webzine, frontpagemag.com. You can reach me through **Norman Gelfand** at nmgc59@hotmail.com — I don't feel comfortable publishing my email given the leftist Lynch mob that is out there — or through my Twitter feed, [@horowitz39](https://twitter.com/horowitz39)."

J. Peter Rosenfeld writes, "My surviving frat bros — **Dan Ein**, **Marty Janis**, **Dave Peck** and **Frank Wilson** — and I have had wonderful Zoom reunions, the second to take place later today (Father's Day). We plan to have a serious discussion about how the structure of our democracy gave rise to the election of Trump. I taught a spring class at Northwestern on the demographics, mechanisms and detection of deception using many advanced new techniques involv-



ing functional magnetic resonance imaging, electroencephalography, oculomotor activity and Implicit Association Tests.

"My wife, Carmen, and I are mostly at home. We enjoy wine near the fountain on our rear patio. We take nice long (masked) walks around our Glencoe, Ill., neighborhood, and long drives up and down the Chicago lake shore. We go to the opera via Met On Demand, and to the Berlin Philharmonic also virtually. With a big-screen TV and fine speaker system, it's really quite OK, though not as nice as attending our (shuttered) Ravinia Festival (like Tanglewood) that is five minutes from the house."

During reunion last year (somehow it seems more than a year ago), we had two sessions called "Looking Back." We heard recollections from a number of classmates. I will include the remarks in Class Notes as I have room. The following is from **Sam Bahn**: "I have had two careers. The first was traditional business — B.A. in economics, M.B.A., PricewaterhouseCoopers C.P.A., the business computer revolution, and consulting at IBM and beyond.

"My second career was triggered during a five-year professional stint in Israel. In the course of the 1982 Lebanon War, I became aware of major discrepancies between anti-Israel American news reports based on Arab sources in Beirut and what I was hearing from colleagues returning from the frontlines and was reading in the Israeli press. Thomas Friedman's *From Beirut to Jerusalem* quietly admitted that journalists were being intimidated. Such advocacy and double standards were clearly antithetical to our Columbia values, and anti-Semitic to boot.

"Back in New York and watching this trend deepen, I embarked on this second career in 1988, founding a chapter of the media watch organization CAMERA, which I ran for three years. Ever since, I have been critically analyzing, writing, teaching and lecturing against unprofessional (anti-Semitic) anti-Israel media advocacy, drawing on our Core studies.

"On a parallel front, I was also observing and monitoring how such Israel-based anti-Semitism was seeping into universities, even our beloved Columbia, a development that President Lee C. Bollinger confirmed and forcefully condemned in his principled and historic March 6,

2020, address to the Senate Plenary. Following a Columbia College Student Council resolution calling for a student referendum on the Boycott, Divestment, Sanction (BDS) movement, Bollinger cited a double standard and excessive campus hatred on these issues and its chilling effect on Jewish students. He even referred to, and denied, charges by outsiders that Columbia is an 'anti-Semitic institution with systemic bigotry.'

"My own experiences included witnessing a 35-minute 2018 speech by the Israeli ambassador to the UN systematically interrupted seven times by groups of students from Columbia Students for Justice in Palestine, which has the open support of some Middle Eastern studies faculty. And the public record includes numerous Israel-based anti-Semitic slurs by Columbia professors — such as Israel having no right to exist and Israel as a key player in every evil act happening in the world.

"I have advocated Columbia's immediate adoption of the widely used International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance anti-Semitism standard, which would put teeth in Bollinger's historic address and an end to such public faculty defamations of Israel (which it is hard to believe do not seep into the classrooms), as well as an end to the anti-Semitic 'Israel Apartheid Week' and BDS campaigns at alma mater.

"The road to opposing Israel-based anti-Semitism at our beloved Columbia, and its chilling effect on Jewish students, has been paved at the highest level by Bollinger himself, so there is every reason for it to be a part of our Class of 1959 and our individual legacies to alma mater, as we continue to celebrate our 60th reunion."

Classmates who would like Sam's original reunion comments are welcome to get in touch; email me at nmgc59@hotmail.com to be connected.

I hope that by the next time I solicit contributions for our Class Notes something resembling normalcy will have returned to our country and that progress has been made in redressing the ills that infect our nation. Lincoln wrote that this nation cannot endure "half slave and half free." I do not believe that it can really endure as half Republican and half Democratic. It needs to come together as one nation,

America, with liberty and justice for all. We Americans can and will have our differences on issues and policies for our government to follow, but we must stand together to protect the lives and liberties for all.

I hope that I haven't offended anyone with these comments. Since I have been class correspondent I have not edited or censored any of the submissions that I have received. [Editor's note: CCT edits all Class Notes columns for appropriateness, context, clarity and style, as well as confirms facts and alumni names and class years.] I don't think that I have exercised the opportunity to express myself, but I feel strongly that I this time I want to communicate my views. If anyone feels that I have acted inappropriately they are welcome to assume the role of class correspondent.

1960

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The most extraordinarily stressful and heartrending circumstances beset **Thad Long** as he left home to begin his college education at Columbia with the Class of '60. He writes, "I was from a small town in Alabama. My parents both passed away my senior year of high school. I had no money, but I was awarded a scholarship to Columbia covering my tuition and room, and a job in the Johnson Dining Hall, where I could work for my meals. After a very challenging summer, I got on the Greyhound bus with two small suitcases and headed for New York. There were delays, and I got there late. I was not even sure I would be received and get a place to stay that night. To save time, I asked the bus driver if his route would take us anywhere near Columbia and he said, yes, it would. I asked him if he would tell me when we got as close as we could and if he would let me off the bus and point the way to the College. He agreed, and I started off in the direction he had pointed, walking in the dark. Fortunately, the reception process was still in operation, I got my room key and my Columbia career was underway."

Thad entered as a physics major, but became enamored of his studies of the humanities: "There was culture shock, but there was excite-

ment about the big city and about the academics. When I heard other students from outside the New York area complain about the impersonal coldness of New York, I could not relate to that, because I accepted New York on its own terms and was so grateful to have the opportunity to be there and be surrounded and immersed in the thoughts of the great thinkers and doers of our culture. I was a physics major, looking for wisdom and truth, but regarded it as a part of natural philosophy that fit right in with CC and the humanities. Having been inspired by my exposure to philosophy and the arts, I got a scholarship to the University of Virginia School of Law, where I fell in love with the law and knew almost immediately that lawyering was what I was designed to do.

"After law school, I repatriated myself back to Alabama, this time to Birmingham, where I had the opportunity to practice antitrust law, complex litigation and intellectual property. I had a fulfilling but challenging career of nearly 50 years of very active practice, followed by a full-time trusteeship and executorship for several years thereafter. I have recently written my memoirs — not sure exactly what is going to happen next with them.

"I have had a great life, with a wonderful wife, Carolyn, two fine children and four fine grandchildren. I have taken two *National Geographic* trips around the world and have traveled to all seven continents. I have really enjoyed seeing firsthand all the wonderful icons of civilization that I used to read and dream about. When I think back about the things that have made the greatest contributions to my life, I have to think of Columbia."

In response to my email to classmates that mentioned my proclivity to have Mozart, Haydn and Beethoven accompany me in my exercise-at-home workout routines, **Elliott Kaback** LS'68 wrote, "I share your devotion to Haydn, whose music has enriched our lives, especially in the last few years. My wife, Patricia Woodard, and I are both retired librarians and singers who have been members of Riverside Choral Society for the last 10 years, during which we have sung several of Haydn's great Masses. The virus deprived us of our May concert of his 'Creation' Mass,

and choruses from 'The Creation.' We live in the house in Brooklyn bought by my grandparents in 1925, in an atmosphere of great peace. Our main frustration stems from being separated from our daughter and two delightful Franco-American grandchildren who live in Greensboro, N.C. Thanks to Zoom, FaceTime and the like, we can keep in touch with our circle of family and friends, but the absence of singing great music with friends under a great conductor (Patrick Gardner) is painful. I remember my years in the Glee Club (as it was then called) with pleasure. In 2010, you might remember that Glee Club alumni gave a concert at reunion. I hope we survive this dark time and resume our musical activities, which make life sweet."

Paul Brief writes, "Trying to weather this COVID-19 onslaught of boredom, isolation, restaurant deprivation and work restrictions: Telemedicine doesn't do much for you (or the patient) in orthopedics. But, it's better than nothing."

"Personally, two things about coronavirus tick me off more than anything else: 1) The daily avalanche of trite, lame, not-funny jokes and 2) The inability to get a haircut: As a Marine, anytime my hair length exceeds 1.5 cm I feel I'm out of uniform and very, very restless."

"Sad about the deaths of **Terrence McNally** and **Brian Dennehy**, great losses for CC'60. We also lost **Frank Siracusa** in 2017. Frank was a well-respected high school science teacher, a wonderful husband and father, and a sweet, kind, lovable man."

"Quite serendipitously, I recently came to be in touch with **Vinnie Russo** and **George Camarinos**, two of my best pals at Columbia along with **Frank Siracusa**, **Joel Kanter**, **Lenny Binder**, **Dick Nottingham** and **Anthony Barone**. Russo lives in Massachusetts, Camarinos in Florida — they are both well, and it was wonderful reminiscing and laughing with them about the good old days on campus."

"I'm in full agreement with you about the 'Three Musketeers' of classical music: Ludwig, Franz and Wolfgang, although I'd tend to group Brahms with them (Dumas's three musketeers were four guys anyway). Sometimes when I drive around listening to WQXR I have trouble distinguishing between Mozart and his mentor, Haydn."

"On the personal side I've developed a bit of a second career: You might remember that a few years ago I had the good fortune to publish my book *Hootch 8: A Combat Surgeon Remembers Vietnam*. I have developed a lecture-slideshow based on the book and have traveled to churches, synagogues, men's clubs, veteran groups and several colleges, including West Point, SUNY Maritime College and SUNY Rockland Community College. The students in particular have been very receptive, as Vietnam remains controversial and polarizing."

"I hope we New Yorkers continue to weather this storm well, along with all our countrymen and countrywomen."

Delighted to hear from **Norbert Schachter**, who succeeded in overcoming a mild case of procrastination. He writes, "I am sending you this somewhat overdue note that I have thought of sending on and off for 40 or 50 years. Now, at 80, having been retired two months ago by COVID-19, in reading your paean to Hayden et al., I thought it was time to say hello and wish you and our classmates well. As I write, I am listening to Bill Evans in a 1960s recording playing Gershwin, namely 'I Loves You Porgy.' My listening choices are pretty evenly divided between classic/New Orleans jazz and classical music, with an emphasis on Beethoven."

"The years have been good, I have practiced ophthalmology in Montclair, N.J., for quite a while, and have mostly done it my way. Sort of a pre-Jurassic style. My partner,

Cheri, and I have been together for 20 years, and I have five kids. Three are in town, one is in Baltimore and one is on the West Coast. Grandkids number eight. Despite the odd barnacle or two accumulated over 80 years I have no major complaints and keep on ticking."

Gary Hershendorfer sends a brief note to wish all classmates well and to offer his remembrance of **Terrence McNally** and **Brian Dennehy**: "Regarding Terrence (I think he went by Terry?) and Brian, it was/is a shock. I remember them clearly. Brian was one of my first Columbia acquaintances. I was always struck by the size of his head! When I met him he was sitting and was wearing a (too small) beanie. Aside from the cap, he didn't appear to be a freshman. Terry had a wry sense of humor. And it flowed easily. Looking back, who would have guessed at their future public fame?"

CCT's Class Note word limit approaches and I have many more notes at hand — word arrived from **Claudio Marzollo** that trying to locate **Tom Raup** LAW'66 produced an obituary. Tom died on August 30, 2016, and although he was a longstanding and outstanding trial court judge in Williamsport, Pa., we were unaware. Tom was an exceptional person. His memory deserves more than this passing statement. We will continue in the next issue. Stay safe and be well."

1961

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Ed Kaplan has been a resident of Memphis since his birth in 1939, and he and his wife, Phyllis, have lived there since their marriage in 1968. In July, they moved to Salt Lake City for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to the fact that their daughter, Natalie, her husband, Toby, and their 8.5-year-old granddaughter, Eva, live there. Toby is the owner of Creative Energies, a successful solar energy company, and Natalie teaches third grade at The McGillis School. Ed and Phyllis are retired and this will be a new beginning for them."

Gene Milone is enjoying the virtual attendance at astronomy conferences, which he believes is far

more efficient and informative than the in-person conferences with their multitude of parallel sessions and impossibility of seeing missed sessions. It is a great way for retired academics to keep up with what's new, and at the same time avoiding COVID-19 travel and all the carbon footprints and expenses associated with them."

Jack Samet began a one-year term on July 1 as president of The PLATO Society of Los Angeles, a lifelong-learning society with approximately 400 members. A description of the PLATO Society can be found on Wikipedia, and its activities are described in more detail on its website. The "heart and soul" of the PLATO Society are its peer-led discussion groups, known as study discussion groups (SDGs). They meet for two hours once a week and have in-depth discussions in seminar-style classes. In addition, they hold monthly colloquia that feature renowned speakers, member-led lunchtime lectures, foreign travel, local cultural events, retreats and numerous extracurricular activities that complement their academic programs. The president's welcome message contains a description of how Jack became involved in the society during his wife's terminal illness."

Herman Kane's son, Dr. Jamie Kane '97, a specialist in medical weight loss and diabetes prevention at Northwell Hospital, was promoted to associate professor. Northwell is affiliated with Hofstra. Jamie played on the Columbia squash team, as high as number 2. Herman became a grandfather in August."

Mike Clark SEAS'62 turned 81 and his philosophy now is, "I look forward to each coming day, and the new things it will bring into my life!"

Chuck Gutowski BUS'63 finished the English translation of a book to be published in October, *La Voix des Eaux (The Voice of Water)*. It is about the Canton of Valais in Switzerland, where Chuck lives, and how the water cycle through the centuries has shaped the Alpine valleys with glaciers, torrents and rivers flowing down to the Rhône river and Lac Léman. The book contains some history, some geology and some quite fantastic photos (which Chuck did not take!). Another book is planned on the history of glaciers in the Alps."

Bob Salman LAW'64's political activity continues, as he is serving his fifth consecutive term as a



Contact CCT

Update your address, email or phone; submit a Class Note, new book, photo, obituary or Letter to the Editor; or send us an email. Click "Contact Us" at college.columbia.edu/cct.



member of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee. As such, he is actively involved in the Biden campaign and the campaigns of Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) and Rep. Frank Pallone (D-N.J.). His granddaughter Mackenzie, a high school senior, was a volunteer summer intern for Pallone. His granddaughter Taylor, who graduated from Maryland's business school, started her career in July as a manager for Target. His oldest granddaughter, Sydney, obtained a master's in nutritional science from St. Joseph's University, and his grandson, Jack, is starting his second year at Wharton.

The political campaigns are vastly different in this COVID-19 age. Bob looks forward to our October class lunch, which will probably be held virtually, when he will hazard his predictions for the 2020 election.

1962

John Freidin
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On June 2 I emailed all of you to suggest that we are facing: COVID-19; economic calamity; and racial outrage." Here, in alphabetical order of respondent name, is what you wrote:

Neilson Abeel: "Portland, Ore., has been shuttered since March 14. We go grocery shopping every three days — usually at 'geezer hour.' Three weeks ago we took a four-day trip to the Summer Lake [Ore.] Wildlife Area and rented a house with two friends. We plan to do it again on June 11. If COVID-19 and the protests against racism unseat Trump, it may have some redemption."

Paul Cooper: "Our country is suffering from the anti-science, anti-truth, anti-expertise, anti-government views of Trump and his confederates. Republican governors are intent on not having people quarantine in place, which is stimulating the virus's spread. For people our age, the good economic news is that most of us have chosen to retire. The other good news is that racists and their racist-in-chief are taking it on the chin. I am an optimist: Trump and his band of incompetents and know-nothings will be gone in January; a vaccine will enable us to return to our pre-COVID-19 lives; and the economy will gradually improve."

John Garman: "In 1918 we learned of the destruction a pandemic can cause, with 615,000 dead in the USA! When we were warned about COVID-19 in January, our leadership ignored it! Blamed others for our lack of preparation! Claimed credit for good results and blamed others for the bad. How will it come out? Economic calamity has overtaken Americans who cannot work from home. When the virus has passed, will they have jobs? Will their employers reopen their businesses? Will they have customers? Will we need office space when many work from home?"

"The video of a police officer pressing his knee on the neck of a Black man should motivate our country to put its collective knee on racial profiling and bigotry, which seem so prevalent among police officers. But don't get your hopes up. Hats off to protestors who demonstrated peacefully. Durham, N.C., had no violence. Tensions between demonstrators and police in Greensboro, N.C., rose almost to a boiling point, when the police, two lines deep, all kneeled. Seeing this, the protestors kneeled. After four minutes, the protestors got up, shook hands with the police and everyone left the street. And, finally, the county sheriff in Flint, Mich., removed his police vest and joined the marching demonstrators."

Chris Haakon: "Lots of Zoom calls. Still on six boards and busy in the house. In March we had to reduce our two-week stay in Florida by a week. There were just 29 folks on the plane to Washington, D.C."

Roman Kernitsky: "As a physician I feel that governors and mayors have used politics as their guide in the lockdowns rather than listening to front-line doctors. These politicians have allowed abortion operations but have deemed cancer surgeries as nonessential. This is unconscionable! Abortions are almost never essential. Furthermore, if you starve because you are unemployed due to the lockdown, how is that better than being infected with the COVID-19 virus? There has to be a better compromise than a lockdown."

Peter Krulewicz: "Sadly, Professor Henry Graff GSAS'49 died of COVID-19. I was in touch with him until several months ago, and he was strong, alert and healthy. The obituary in *The New*

York Times linked to my oral history book, which included Professor Graff's remembrance of his youth in Inwood and his amazing wartime translation of Ambassador Hiroshi Ōshima's telegraphed messages, identifying where German forces expected the D-Day landings. See oldnewyorkstories.com. Now, the worst pandemic since 1918, the worst economy since the Great Depression, rioting in the streets, Trump President — what could be wrong? I give credit for this statement to **Peter Lushing**; we remain in regular communication."

[Editor's note: See "Around the Quads"/"In Memoriam," Summer 2020: college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/summer20/article/memoriam-henry-f-graff-gsas'49-professor-emeritus-history-presidential.]

Phil Lebovitz: "My beloved audiologist retired the day the Illinois governor moved the state to phase 3. My 75-year-old, quick-handed dentist stopped seeing patients. We watched New Trier H.S.'s virtual graduation by computer and saw our grandson's picture float across the screen as his name was called. We celebrated my son's 50th birthday with family seated outdoors at the required social distance. I organized an initiative for the Chicago Psychoanalytic Institute faculty to provide eight sessions pro bono for front-line personnel. We watched in horror as 1968 seemed to replay — this time with a leader who fans the flames. The rabbi my mother idolized for his efforts to mediate the sanitation workers' repression in Memphis broke vividly into my thoughts."

Peter Lushing: "Worst rioting since MLK 1968."

Bob Meyers: "A 'news diet' every few days and evening walks help me find calmness and equanimity."

Jeff Milstein: "To help us cope with the crises in public health, the economy and race relations, we can be inspired by the experiences of our parents and grandparents. They endured social oppression, emigration, the flu of 1918–20, WWI, the Great Depression and WWII. Many lost relatives, friends, loved ones and livelihoods. Yet they nurtured us, and gave us the opportunities we have enjoyed for eight decades. Now it's our turn."

Charlie Morrow: "We are proud to stand up for science and research. The knee on the neck of one man

is the knees of all who prey on those at their mercy, which is all of us. This moment, when those we trusted with the stewardship of our nation take for themselves, calls for our participation in reshaping the America we love. Or we ourselves will be enslaved losers."

Don Splansky: "We have been living through dark times, but as Martin Luther King Jr. said, 'The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.' His words seem more of a pious hope than an established fact. I pray that our classmates are safe and 'hunkering down,' while, at the same time, are working for the betterment of society. Be strong and courageous."

Pete Stevenson: "Racial outrage is a complete falsehood. The violence is the product of professional disrupters taking the Democrat party note, 'Never let a good crisis go to waste,' and putting it into practice. The economic disaster resulting from COVID-19 is terrible. It will live with us for a long time. Sadly, it was greatly exacerbated by the terrible error of shutting down the economy. Like suffering from a gunshot in one foot and shooting oneself in the other for balance! Local government must take charge, devise plans to permit people to earn a living while staying distanced and healthy. Lockdown ain't it."

Frank Stoppenbach: "Current questioning of the lockdown in Germany and Denmark suggests my skepticism (in *Daily Freeman*, April 3) may have been on target. One would think officials might ask questions before implementing policy with such huge consequences. The United States, with great economic inequality, needs, but probably won't get, dramatic shifts in policy like those of the 1930s. A better deal for most people won't prevent all racial injustice, but it will reduce economic stresses that can trigger explosive responses. Our country has many problems — a shame we aren't putting the unemployed (counted and uncoun- ted, recent and long-term) to work solving them. My congressman — Antonio Delgado (D-N.Y.), a Black man in a largely white, very rural district — concludes in an op-ed that in times of anger our response must be love, put into action through protests, voting and the recognition, quoting the

Roman-African playwright and slave, Terence, that 'nothing human is alien to me'."

Anthony Valerio: "In my case, praying, chanting — arm-in-arm with my mates in solidarity for universal peace, political and social change, and, yes, hope and love."

Larry William: "After much moaning and groaning, I am following the path of Voltaire's hero: 'Candide serait un chef-d'œuvre incomplet si le philosophe, après avoir ainsi étalé nos misères à nos yeux, ne nous ranimait pas par une conclusion reconfortante. ... tout le monde la connaît: il faut cultiver son jardin.' And so, I grow tomatoes and bake sourdough."

Thanks to **Jim Balquist** for this appreciation of his lifelong friend, **Bob "The Duck" Dickstein**, who passed away on April 4: "Bob and I played on the same Teaneck, N.J., high school soccer and wrestling teams and co-captained an undefeated District Champion 1957–58 wrestling team. We also wrestled at Columbia and took pride in defeating powerhouse Cornell for the Ivy championship of 1960–61. Duck later coached the Columbia freshman wrestling team, attended law school and practiced law in New Jersey.

"He had two daughters and two granddaughters from his first marriage and one stepson and two grand-stepsons from his second. His widow, Janet, routinely participates in the New Jersey women's age group tennis tournaments. Bob was her biggest fan.

"Bob was a fitness fanatic who maintained his love for wrestling as a high school referee and Columbia wrestling fan. Everyone who knew him loved his outgoing spirit. Those who really knew him were careful shaking his hand, because they might get arm-dragged.

"In retirement, Bob lived by the belief that he should give back to society what it had generously given him and us. He spent almost half his time helping others: speaking at meetings, visiting schools, prisons and rehabs, and functioning as a mentor and sponsor to many in need.

"Columbia wrestling created the Bob Dickstein Memorial Award in Bob's memory. It is given to the wrestler who best embodies his joy for life, inspirational leadership, sportsmanship and loyalty to Columbia. Joe Franzese '22 is the first recipient."

I apologize to **Bob Meyers** and readers of these notes for omitting from the Summer 2020 issue the following from Bob: "I want to briefly note (vent?) to classmates, who seem to do a lot of international airplane travel, that perhaps they might consider their considerable carbon footprint and its long-term effects on the planet and their grandkids. Consider the new attitude in Sweden called 'Flygskam' or 'Flight Shaming,' which emphasizes taking trains, or what I prefer ... fly less, stay put more and delve deeper into things local."

1963

Paul Neshamkin
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The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound effect on our class. Some very sad with suffering and death, but also some profoundly happy with successful recovery from this terrible disease. I hope all of you are staying safe and well.

One of the unexpected happy outcomes of the coronavirus is that it has brought our class closer together. I continue to hear from many of you, and because we have not been able to hold our monthly Class of '63 lunches in person, I started holding them virtually on Zoom. The first took place on our scheduled lunch date in April, and it was so successful, everyone asked to keep it up on a weekly basis.

And so we have. Every Thursday at 12:30 EDT, about 20 of your classmates gather online, generally with a cold beverage in hand, to discuss the latest science about COVID-19, the latest on BLM, and the protests and the government's reaction to them. It's an interesting group, signing in from Seattle, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Maryland, Florida, Texas, New York, Tel Aviv, Cape Cod and the Jersey Shore. We always have lawyers on hand to give legal expertise, doctors to give the low-down on potential therapeutics and vaccines, and leaders from the scientific community to give us the background on the effects of climate change and other factors.

More importantly, we have been sharing the latest news on one of our regulars, who was having an especially rough time with COVID-19, but has

finally, after months, recovered. But it's all not completely heavy — in the absence of any real sports, we still have time to share our sports stories with our class experts. It's a gas, and we hope you will join us. Simply email me, and I will invite you to the next one. We've decided to keep this up, even after we are able to start our in-person lunches. It's a great way to see old friends for an hour or hour and a half every week.

Abba Rubin writes, "My wife and I now live in a delightful suburb of Baltimore. We are doing well and are socially very active — but from a distance. We go for walks and talk to others also walking, but across the street. My eldest, a son, comes to visit and we talk from our front door across the street to his car. My other son comes right into the house to visit — both he and his wife and their kids, but they only come in via Skype. No one wants us to get sick. Actually, we don't want to either. Our conversation now is, of course, only about COVID-19. We worry about those in trouble, and are amazed at the heroic efforts of so many who help in so many ways."

John Gleason writes, "We're all doing fine. My wife, Carol, and

Associates [donors of \$1,500 or more to the Columbia College Fund]. I have been a mid-level federal 'civil servant' all my working career, yet I include Columbia College at that donation level (in addition to other special gifts like for the gymnasium and the Core Curriculum). I also contribute to Columbia Athletics and a Columbia religious outreach program, yet this represents only 10 percent of my annual donations. I'm a proud and joyous member of the Class of 1963."

Richard Tuerk writes, "We recently moved to Plano, Texas, and were getting used to the city and the retirement apartments here. But things didn't turn out at all the way we expected. I feel especially concerned about the many members of our class that live in and around New York City. I hope you are all doing well. I've reestablished contact with one of my best friends while I was at Columbia, **Steven Shirk**. I know the words are trite, but recently, they've taken on new meaning: Be Safe! Take Care!"

Richard later sent more news: "After spending 42 years in Commerce, Texas, my wife and I are now living in Plano. The transition from

John Gleason '63 and his wife read as much as they can:

"I'm working on Euripides, to test whether I can still read ancient Greek."

I are socially distanced in our San Francisco flat. We've been at home for some two weeks, with me only going out for an occasional exercise walk and Carol to work in our backyard garden. We are very lucky that one of our daughters, Sarah, lives right next to us and handles all our grocery shopping. Beyond that, we both read as much as we can. I'm working on Euripides, to test whether I can still read ancient Greek. I'm very pleased to write a sentence like the preceding, and for that I owe Columbia thanks."

Martin Greenfield writes, "Still seeing patients as an endocrinologist in Nassau County. But at a much-reduced number."

Elliott Greher writes, "I am surprised that so few members of my class are members of the John Jay

a house in a relatively small town in Texas to a retirement apartment in part of the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex went fairly smoothly until the pandemic shut everything down. Our governor decided to reopen the economy much too early, so now Texas is having terrible surges of illness and death.

"Fortunately, at the time of this writing, we, the other members of our family, and our dogs are still well and managing to get the food and other things we need. Our daughter is dean of students at Navarro College in Corsicana, Texas. Our son works for Apple in Dallas. In February, my book *Rebirth in the Life and Works of Beatrix Potter* was published. Since I'm not yet willing to go into post offices, I've been unable to send out as many copies as I would like. I hope



Texas will soon join the ranks of the places that are at least beginning to do a good job of handling problems involving the pandemic."

Mike Brenner writes, "Serial careers are no longer a rarity. After a certain age, though, they need to overlap. I'm now on my third and fourth. The first was architecture, engaging me 1963-73. The second was psychiatry, lasting until 2007. My third is a mix of guide, wise uncle and shaman. For anyone curious about what that means, go to alive-with-intention.com. In my fourth career, for eight years now I've been a writer and producer. In fall 2019, I published the totally outside-the-box *Evolution Diverted: How an Altered Genetic Origin is Leading Us to Self-Destruct*. This is not the place to pitch the book, other than to say that Trump and COVID-19 are enhancing its relevance. If the title rouses your interest, the website is evolutiondiverted.com. You'll find a video there of the NYC stage performance based on the book. I'm now working on the screenplay for a fictionalized feature film. I'd love to hear from classmates."

David Orme-Johnson writes, "Here is a link to the new issue of *Enjoy TM News* about maintaining health in the coronavirus pandemic, which has my article on the research on the effects of transcendental meditation on immunity (bit.ly/3kxR8jK). I try to explain why TM improves immunity, as well as health in general. I think that the rest and relaxation TM provides is highly restorative because the different bodily systems become in better communication with each other. For example, EEG coherence increases and connectivity of deep-brain structures improves, correlated with decreased stress. I think improved communication in the nervous system, which regulates bodily systems, allows all the homeostatic self-healing mechanisms of the body to work more effectively, whatever the imbalance they are trying to normalize. It's a theory. Enjoy the article, and be well."

Once this is over and you're back in NYC, you can reconnect with your classmates at our regular second Thursday class lunches at the Columbia Club (we will still gather at the Princeton Club — once it reopens). I'm a pessimist, but hoping we might be able to meet again by

December 10; the next two will be January 14 and February 11. In any case, we will meet virtually on Zoom every Thursday at 12:30 p.m. EDT. Just email me at pauln@helpauthors.com for an invitation.

In the meantime, please let us know what you are up to, how you're doing and what's next. Stay safe!

1964

Norman A. Olch
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I began my Summer 2020 Class Notes column in April stating that I have been in my Manhattan apartment for weeks, and that I do some legal work, read, nap and watch movies, that the news is grim, but I hope society's lot will have improved by the time the Summer 2020 CCT appears in July.

It is now July, and I remain in my apartment doing some legal work, reading, napping and watching movies. The situation has improved in New York City, but all sports arenas and theaters are still closed, and restaurants can provide only makeshift outdoor dining. With the largest public school system in the country, the city is debating how to safely reopen in buildings and classrooms not built for social distancing.

Columbia has announced the fall semester will begin in September and will be entirely remote. The Ivy League has canceled all team sports for the fall semester. The situation is dire in some parts of the country, and the fear here in the Northeast is that the virus will return in the fall. I can only repeat the hope that by the time this is published in September, society's lot will have improved.

Mark Rogers (Mark Rosenberg at graduation) writes from Miami, Fla., "My unusual career as an academic physician/M.B.A. entrepreneur continues with the signing of the contract for the sixth edition of the eponymous *Rogers' Textbook of Pediatric Intensive Care*. It is my 13th book, including books in Japanese, Spanish, Portuguese and so on. With an endowed chair named for me at Johns Hopkins and an honorary degree from the University of Ljubljana (Slovenia) where I did a Fulbright, it has been a rewarding academic career with dozens of students all around the world now

caring for children on six continents in pediatric intensive care units.

"Getting my M.B.A. at Wharton led to me becoming CEO of Duke Hospital, and my recruitment as the senior VP of the NYSE company PerkinElmer, which, under the name Celera, joined the National Institutes of Health in sequencing the human genome. In turn, this led me to the brand-new field (in the 1990s) of biotechnology and to founding companies that went public and that were responsible for drugs to cure acute promyelocytic leukemia as well as a series of other cardiac and pain products.

"My experiences at Columbia, particularly Contemporary Civilization, made me a lifetime student of culture and art which, fortunately, led to me to fully enjoying the invitations and visits to more than 80 countries with my wife, as well as to educational adventures such as driving the Pan Am Highway from Canada to Santiago, Chile. Each visit to an exotic place required a reading about the history and the culture that I had learned to enjoy at Columbia as part of Contemporary Civilization.

"It is a long trip from the South Bronx, which I could not have made without an education and a set of standards that I learned at Columbia."

Dave Levin is back in the New York suburbs, after seven weeks in Florida, with his wife, Linda.

I am saddened to report two deaths. **Mark Steiner** entered with CC'64 and graduated with CC'65 (see the 1965 Class Notes and "Obituaries").

Fred Kantor GSAS'73 entered the CC'63 and graduated with us. A physicist and an inventor, Fred was a regular and lively presence at reunions, Class Days and the monthly informal class lunch in Manhattan.

For his doctoral thesis at Columbia, Fred invented a way to polish the surfaces of an X-ray telescope. Tragically, the rocket carrying the telescope he built crashed on takeoff at Los Alamos, N.M. His patented design was replicated by Lockheed Martin for NASA, and one day might yet circle the globe. Fred's other patents included new ways to make air conditioners, new ways to carry away sewage waste and new ways to help people with macular degeneration to read again. He was always welcome at the Symposium restaurant on West 113th Street because he had lent the owner

\$5,000 to the keep the business going during hard times.

In 1977, Fred published his book, *Information Mechanics*. His brother Paul '59, an emeritus professor at Rutgers, explains that the book "developed a completely different way of thinking about physics" and contains "many predictions about things that may one day be observable." Fred's family reports that donations in his memory may be made to the Columbia Department of Physics, the New Jewish Home in Manhattan or a charity of your choice.

[Editor's note: See "Obituaries."] *Requiescat in pace.*

1965

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CCT forwarded to me a notification from Azriel Genack '64 reporting the first COVID-19 casualty I've heard about in our class, distinguished philosopher **Mark Steiner**. Azi provided me with this description of Mark and his work: "Mark Steiner, professor emeritus of philosophy at the Hebrew University, passed away on April 6 [2020] from the COVID-19 virus, at 77. Mark entered Columbia in 1960 but, in 1963-64, he, along with **Mel Barenholtz**, took a year's leave to study Talmud in Israel at the Kerem B'Yavneh Yeshivah. Mark made the most of his time at the College and was deeply engaged with fellow students and faculty, especially with Sidney Morgenbesser. He married Rachel Freeman BC'65 while at Columbia. They have five children. Mark graduated from the College *summa cum laude*.

"After graduation, he studied philosophy at Oxford as a Fulbright Fellow and received his doctorate in philosophy from Princeton in 1972. Mark joined the philosophy department at Columbia, where he taught until he moved to the Hebrew University in Jerusalem in 1977. He was for many years the department chair, but often came back to Columbia to teach during the summer. Until the week before his death, Mark was teaching a popular seminar on the philosophy of Ludwig Wittgenstein. In work published a year earlier, Mark explored imagination and possibility in its historical role in the

philosophy of mathematics of David Hume and Moses Maimonides.

"Mark's work on the philosophy of science and mathematics is enormously influential. In his book, *The Applicability of Mathematics as a Philosophical Problem*, published by Harvard University Press, Mark argued that the process of the discovery of the laws of nature shows that the universe is 'user-friendly' to human cognition."

Seeing his name, I followed up with **Mel Barenholtz**, who provided a generous update on his doings as well as further thoughts about Mark. He writes, "I have good news and bad news.

"First, the good news. As I reported last year in a Class Note,

challenge while an optimist makes every challenge into an opportunity.' As an inveterate optimist, I treated my solitary Seders as an opportunity and enjoyed the experience — but which I hope will never be repeated.

"Now, for the bad news. On April 6, I received an email from my sister Sherry Feintuch BC'69, of Jerusalem, informing me that my friend **Mark Steiner** had passed away that day from COVID-19. During my first two years at the College, Mark and I, along with several other College students, studied Talmud every weekday afternoon with Rabbi Emanuel Gettinger of the Young Israel of the West Side. Inspired by our studies with Rabbi Gettinger, Mark suggested that we take a year's

immediate family. But his sons set up a Facebook page, where dozens of people have posted remarks and hundreds of people have posted comments: bit.ly/39TQ2K2.

"I can be reached at mbarenh@yahoo.com if anyone would like to share memories of Mark.

"I will close with an excerpt from a eulogy written by two of Mark's academic colleagues: 'Mark possessed a mind that was as versatile as it was penetrating, as capacious as it was deep — together with a religiosity that was profound and authentic.'

"Yehi Zichro Baruch — May his memory be a blessing."

[Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

I got an anxious note from Dave Sard '69, who saw somewhere on the internet that a CC'65 classmate had died. That didn't sound right to me. I checked, and the classmate, channeling Mark Twain, confirmed that the reports of his passing were greatly exaggerated. But Dave followed up with a great note: "I have now reached the age where one thinks of writing to one's alumni magazines, so here goes: I entered Columbia in 1961, knowing virtually nothing about it. Most people in my hometown, St. Louis, Mo., had never heard of it. (In Missouri, 'Columbia' is the state university.)

"I had a very mixed experience at Columbia, but I was lucky to have two smart, decent, helpful roommates, **Niles Eldredge** and **Ken DeWoskin**. Some big disappointments kicked off a period of depression, and I was in and out of school for four years, finally finishing in 1969. The Vietnam War was hanging over all our heads. In the middle of all this I got married and had a daughter, Kristen, who is now an artist in San Francisco. My grandson, Odin Sard-Thayer (16) is an aspiring — and very proficient — guitarist. (My daughter married Charley Thayer SEAS'91, whose dad is Jonathan Thayer '68. None of us knew each other then.) Anyway, I'm getting lost in the details. Kristen and Charley are still together and they are the light of my life. Kristen's mom, Sarah, and I came to an amicable parting of the ways in 1990.

"After I finished at Columbia (luckily for me, it doesn't like to let go of people), I spent a few years trying to save the world as a teacher and counselor, chiefly in Bed-Stuy and the Lower East Side. Obvi-

ously I failed, so I went back to grad school and got a Ph.D. in clinical psychology at City University in 1986. My dissertation was a study of mothers' and infants' touching. After bouncing around for a bit in various clinics, I ended up in Newark, N.J., as supervising psychologist at The Child Development Center of Children's Hospital of New Jersey. It was a wonderful learning experience, and I met some wonderful people, including my mentor, Leta Bagdon; my wife, Cheryl Thompson (now deceased); and my stepson, Jason Wiggins, who is finishing a doctorate in astrophysics at Notre Dame. After several years, things changed and I became a school psychologist in Madison, N.J., with a private practice. Along the way, I dabbled in psychotherapy and psychoanalysis. I became an Episcopalian, which seems to mean that I acknowledge chiefly that there is something out there that is bigger than I. Now I have a small private practice and I teach psychotherapy at Pace University in NYC. Also, I joined a chorus, Oratorio Singers, of Westfield. When we are up and running again you are all invited. We were working on Haydn's 'Creation' Mass when the virus struck."

More from Dave in the next issue, as we've run out of space.

1966

Columbia College Today
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Louis Locascio writes: "I graduated from Seton Hall Law School, in Newark, N.J., and married my high school sweetheart, Sue Anne. After 22 years as a board-certified civil and criminal trial lawyer, I was appointed by Gov. James Florio (D-N.J.) to the Superior Court of New Jersey, where I served for 17 years, sitting in the civil, criminal and family divisions. After retiring 11 years ago, I became of counsel to Gold, Albanese, Barletti & Locascio in Red Bank, N.J., managed by my son Anthony and where I head up the mediation and arbitration department. I also have a monthly column, 'Court Watch,' in the *New Jersey Law Journal*."

Daniel Gover shares his thoughts on NYC during COVID-19: "A friend of mine visiting from England

Attorney Louis Locascio '66 is of counsel to a firm in Red Bank, N.J., and also has a monthly column, "Court Watch," in the New Jersey Law Journal.

my oldest grandchild, Yehuda Zev Barenholtz, married Leah Gartenhaus in January 2019. Now, I am very happy to report that Yehuda Zev and Leah had a baby boy, Yaakov, in February 2020, making me a great-grandfather. It feels wonderful to be a great-grandfather when I am still young enough and in good enough health to be able to go skiing with my grandchildren during the winter and hiking (while socially distanced) in the spring and summer.

"This year, I am happy to report that my second-oldest grandchild, Yehuda Zev's brother, Bezalel, married Rivky Swyaticki in November 2019.

"The past few months of 'Corona Time' have been very strange for me, as I am sure they have been for all of us. For example, in normal times, my sons from Teaneck, N.J., and Boca Raton, Fla., along with their wives and eight children, always came to my house for the Passover holiday. The highlights of the holiday are the two Passover Seders that, with all the discussions, good food and group singing, usually wouldn't end until after 1 a.m. This year, I was 'home alone' for Passover. It was very strange to contemplate making a Seder by myself, for myself but, as Winston Churchill said: 'A pessimist makes every opportunity into a

leave of absence in order to study Talmud in Israel. I readily agreed to join Mark in this adventure, and we spent the 1963–64 school year studying at the Kerem B'Yavneh Yeshiva. In a Yeshiva, students attend a daily lecture in Talmud and, for the rest of a 10-hour day of study, they study in pairs. For the entire school year, for about six hours each day, Mark and I studied Talmud and Codes together. We had a great year and always cherished the experience.

"Upon returning to the College, Mark resumed his study of philosophy and graduated in 1965. As an undergraduate, he began a very close relationship with legendary Columbia professor of philosophy Sidney Morgenbesser, a relationship that lasted for more than 40 years, until Morgenbesser's passing in 2004. During Morgenbesser's final illness, Mark spent many hours at his bedside trading jokes and discussing philosophy.

"In normal times, hundreds of people would have attended Mark's funeral and he would have been eloquently eulogized by his children and by distinguished rabbis and academic colleagues. Due to the pandemic, he had a private funeral attended only by the members of his



went to a newsstand in Brooklyn and asked the gentleman there, 'May I please have a copy of *Newsweek* magazine?' The guy looked at her and said, 'Skip the speeches, lady.' It was clear to him that she was nuts. 'Ah,' I said. 'It's obvious that you lacked the local parlance required of a rushed world of commuters. "*Newsweek*" would have been more than sufficient to make your purpose known.'

"This tale has always reminded me of the innate kindness and courtesy of true New Yorkers. Now during a time of virus and plague, we become once more aware of the fundamental decency that is essential to life in the big, compressed, cheek-by-jowl, apartment-dwelling city.

"Another friend passing through from Utah was once surprised by a New York cabbie who did not overcharge him for a ride from Idlewild Airport into Manhattan. He tipped the cabbie generously and said, 'Thank you very much, sir.' The cabbie gave him the old fish eye and said, 'What are you, a wiseguy?' Truly, this was a driver who had long pickled and marinated himself in the salty brine of the urban metropolis.

"It must have been a New Yorker who wrote the lines for the mobster and his moll in the movie *Scarface*, the one from the 1930s with Paul Muni as the gangster. In one scene Muni gets all dolled up for the mis-sus and asks her, 'How do you like my diamond stickpin, baby?' 'Ooh,' she replies, 'it's verry ostentatious.' 'Yeah,' the mobster says with a laugh, 'I knew you'd like it!'

"With such palaver as this, how can one not love the inherent refinement of true New Yorkers? I know I do. It's my hometown and I'm sticking with it, especially when times are tough. When times are tough, the tough put on their masks and go to work."

Share your news with CCT and your classmates by sending us an email.

1967

Albert Zonana
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Class Notes for CC'67 will be back in the Winter 2020–21 issue; until then, stay healthy and be well. Please take a moment to send me a note. Your classmates want to hear from you.

1968

Arthur Spector
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Greetings from Miami Beach and upstate New York! I hope all members of the Class of 1968 are staying well.

I heard from **Bill Chin**, who is on the Cape; he sounded engaged with some research — always a good sign for us all.

I also heard from **Arthur Kaufman** LAW'71, who teaches at the Law School — his 20th year, how time flies (*Tempus fugit*). He sounds full of good cheer, and his sons are doing well. He is a happy grandfather and he and his wife, Susan, sound like they too are surviving the lockdown. He has been swimming a good bit — I didn't know that rowers could swim!

I hear from my neighbor in Miami, **Ira McCown**, who seems to be weathering the storm there. A bit of trivia: Ira and Arthur went to Horace Mann H.S.

Tom Sanford, Arthur and I did a Zoom a few weeks ago (do you "do" a Zoom?). Tom, as usual, is full of charm and grace and has a deep interest in Columbia.

I received a package from **Ken Tomecki** out of the clear blue. He is probably trying to compensate for missing the 50th, but I expect to see him at the 55th and onward.

Thanks, Ken, for the gift!

Robert Brandt and I have talked a lot recently; he is always a pleasure to chat with on public policy issues. His two sons seem to be doing well; one is off to Chicago. He is regularly cooking for his wife; a good job for sure. Robert's skiing continued this past winter. I learned a little more about his life in Miami Beach (near where I live) when he was a child, and his summering at The Sagamore on Lake George, where **Seth Weinstein** spent some time. They were probably 10 years of age but didn't meet until many years later, of course.

Our great public health expert, **Nigel Paneth**, has been trying to contribute to the research on and finding some solutions to the virus. I don't think he made it to Vermont this summer.

Gordon Harriss and I have emailed, and he seems to be well

aware of some of the great legal issues of our time. It would be great at our next reunion to have a panel on constitutional issues. He could chair; I bet it would be raucous and enlightening.

By the way, **Ken Tomecki**, our famous dermatologist, was clear with me to be careful with the sun and, Ken, I am! I try to swim almost every day. **Frank Dann** would be impressed, along with the many swimmers in the class.

It was so good to hear from **Tony Kao** and **George Ting**, friends for all these years. I also heard from **Pete Janovsky**, who was checking to see if I was all right. His twin daughters are now off to college. Peter is behind some of us, but has the joy now of hearing the good stories from first-years. Peter's great interest in the Marching Band must have been heightened as the school decided about football and the other sports.

I did have a fun call with **Andy Herz** — always good cheer — and heard a great story about his wrestling career and his reporting on Bill Campbell '62, TC'64. Many whom I have spoken to have told me of the impact Bill had on them. **Paul de Bary** is another in this category. Paul and his wife, Stefana, sound like they are weathering the crisis of the day, and I hope they visit me again in Miami.

Rich Rosenblum writes, "The news, of course, is that **Masahiko Taketomo**, **Jeff Kurnit** and **Abby Kurnit** BC'68 and I are among the 25 Columbia alumni singers who appear on a recent Alumni Singers video. This arrangement of 'Down in the Valley' has been a mainstay at Columbia. The all-male Glee Club performed this piece often when we sang with that all-male group: go online to bit.ly/3gKToBR."

I am hoping that we can have a Class of 1968 event in Miami Beach; I was thinking about Art Basel. I know **Tom Sanford** is up for the idea.

I hope you are all well, and I look forward to hearing from you when you can be in touch.

1969

Nathaniel Wander
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Greetings for fall, Class of 1969. **Bill Bonvillian** LAW'74 teaches

and runs research projects at MIT; the MIT Press is releasing his book *Workforce Education, A New Roadmap* this year. It takes a hard look at America's broken workforce education system and how to fix it, a key policy step in redressing U.S. economic inequality that COVID-19 has significantly worsened. He came to this policy interest by a path that began with social history courses from David Rothman, Eric Foner '63, GSAS'69 and James Shenton '49, GSAS'54, and summer experience in Project Double Discovery, efforts to help ready poor high school students for college.

I taught in Double Discovery, too; it sometimes seemed like the most productive thing I did at Columbia. Learning to read is a double-edged sword, however; I nearly flunked out in our first semester reading *The Sot-Weed Factor*, *Catch-22* and *V* during finals week, instead of catching up on all the classes I'd skipped.

A retired professor of English living in western Massachusetts, **Eugene Hill** '70 has been married for a third of a century to Heidi Holder GSAS'85, who teaches drama. He is often in touch with friends from Stuyvesant, Columbia and Princeton. Essays from his pen on Elizabethan plays are regularly imposed on graduate students being trained to produce more of the same. The current viral enclosure has encouraged him to cultivate a beard of Whitmanic dimension.

I encountered Elizabethan English head-on during a long-ago Jamaican honeymoon. A remarkable turn by the Folk Ballet drew a spectator behind me to utter, *"Ah, but it warrms the cuckles of me hearrrr"* in the thickest brogue since Finley Peter Dunne laid down his pen. The speaker turned out to be a sable-skinned woman in bright-colored African fabrics — the Brogue, Caribbean English, Brooklynese and N'Orleanian preserved traces of Elizabethan articulation at the margins of the empire.

A couple of classmates have remarked that what they brought away from Columbia most relevant to present circumstances were experiences of racism and police violence from 1968. **Michael Jacoby Brown** writes, "During the COVID-19 pandemic, I am reminded how racism affects who is infected and who

dies, including many of those now incarcerated where the pandemic is most ferocious.”

Michael was arrested “by the NYPD in April 1968 for sitting in my American history lounge when the University did not want me there. The first people hit and the hardest were Black Harlem high school students sitting in with us; their blood was all over the room. When I spent several days in a NYC jail, all my jailmates were Black and Brown men who could not make bail or had been arrested for the crime of having dark skin. This was not part of the ‘official’ Columbia curriculum, but thank you, Columbia, for these experiences.”

In a similar vein, **Renee Chin-quapin** wrote: “Getting bashed by a NYPD cop during the strike graphically taught me ‘law enforcement’s’ role in protecting the interests of the ‘Ruling Class.’ During COVID-19 I’ve been holed up but thrilled and identifying, thanks to my Columbia experience, with the BLM folks fighting police brutality.”

What **Nathaniel Wander** brought away of most current relevance is a generalization from Pascal’s Wager. The 17th-century physicist and theologian Blaise Pascal cast an argument for the worship of God as a bet for or against eternal life. If (an essentially French Catholic) God existed, Pascal posited, and one failed to believe or practice as ordained, one risked losing the promised resurrection, while if one believed and practiced and God didn’t exist, only some minor worldly pleasures would be lost. QED: The rational person should believe and act as if God existed.

While one could argue the contents of Pascal’s theological wager — are the costs of acting on Catholic theology as small as he claimed? (does the phrase “Spanish Inquisition” ring any kind of bell?) — the form is genius: Acting on an alternative that costs little if false but returns great benefit if true is preferable to acting skeptically on an alternative that costs immensely if untrue. Like wearing face coverings when going out during the COVID-19 pandemic. If “masking theory” is correct — while highly plausible it has yet to be formally tested in a convincing manner — the benefits of mask-wearing in limiting the spread of the pandemic and

protecting the most vulnerable are huge. If masking should have turned out to be nonsense, the cost will have been the surrender of a little autonomy (“Who is the governor to tell me what to do?”) and sartorial elegance while incurring of a bit of physical discomfort, admittedly exacerbated in hot or humid locales. QED: The rational person masks up.

It turns out that **James Casimir Wisniewski**, whom I thought had been “lost to view,” died at 67 in Pittsburgh on November 1, 2015. I had searched for Jim fitfully on the internet over the years, but only discovered his fate in late June, responding to a query by a friend, Dr. Christina Surawicz BC’69, who’d known him briefly. There’s more to say about “The Wiz” in the next column, but being reminded of ongoing ties to Barnard classmates like Chris and to teachers like anthropology professor Abraham Rosman, whose April 13, 2020, death was memorialized online by the department on July 3, segues neatly into *The Things They Carried* question for Winter 2020–21 column submissions.

Question: What have you carried away from Columbia in terms of connections to Barnard, to classmates and to teachers?

1970

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We missed our 50th reunion but that will now I hope be rescheduled for June 2021, so please tune in to notices you receive from the College.

In the Summer 2020 Class Notes column, I published a note from **Jim Kunen** about **David Lehman**. David, who is still active as a professor and editor of *The Best American Poetry*, responded to my column with a flattering “thank you” that was also a tribute to our classmates. David writes, “What a surprise, and what a pleasure to read the Class Notes in CCT. God bless **Jim Kunen**, a very talented writer who wrote about Spring ’68 even as it was happening under the name Simon James, as I recall; it became *The Strawberry Statement: Notes of a College Revolutionary*. To be complimented by him is wonderful, and I feel like opening a bottle of champagne — even more so now that I’ve read your own com-

ments. Like Jim, to whom go my very best wishes and thanks, I am grateful to you for the work you do on Class Notes. We had superb classmates, and I am never surprised when one of us — whether **Dov Zakheim** or **Sam Estreicher**, **Jim Periconi** or **Michael Stern**, **Paul Starr** or **Jeff Rudman** — does something exceptional.”

My goal in writing the Class Notes is to let classmates hear about other classmates and, I hope, share some of the pride that I feel as a member of the Class of 1970.

My friend Professor **Michael Aeschliman** GSAS’91 wrote me about the republication of his book, *The Restoration of Man: C.S. Lewis and the Continuing Case Against Scientism*: “Pardon me for not being in better touch, and probably too late to do anything about reunion: your emails all went to my old Boston University account, which, here in Tuscany and in retirement, I did not until very recently check. If anything about me would still be of interest it could be found on the Wikipedia article on me that recently went up (due to an old admirer and friend in Geneva, and a great surprise to me). The best recent news from me (other than the well-being of my beloved wife, surviving this coronavirus plague in northern Italy despite lung cancer and heart problems) is the republication of my first book in both English and French in an updated edition, *The Restoration of Man*, with a particularly welcome review of the French edition in the weekly magazine of the great Paris newspaper *Le Figaro*.

“I still think about my beloved deceased classmate **Holland Hendrix**, whom you kindly allowed me to mention and praise in a Class Note. I was also pleasantly surprised at how well Columbia handled the memorial service for my friend and beloved former Columbia teacher Edward W. Tayler. I knew him very well and still think he was a secret Christian. In any case, on the side of the angels.”

Peter Grossman SOA’72 took the opportunity of the canceled reunion to give us a complete report on what he has done professionally and in life: “In light of the anniversary, I thought I would write a little bit about my life for the past half-century, even though I doubt very many of my classmates have any memory of me. I was neither one of the best students nor was

I very involved in campus activities — at least, not until I lucked out with a high draft lottery number, and decided I should help other students who were not so fortunate. So in spring 1970 I became a draft counselor, a task I kept at for two more years while I was a playwriting student at the School of the Arts. After getting an M.F.A. and seeing a few of my plays performed Off-Off-Broadway, I became a freelance writer, writing magazine articles mainly about business and finance (about which I knew very little); then I became an assistant professor of journalism (though I’d never taken a journalism course); and still later, at 40, indulged a mid-life crisis by going back to school to get a doctorate in economics. I was told by one school that, given my lack of prerequisites (I majored in philosophy at Columbia with no econ courses), I had no more business applying for a doctoral program in economics than for med school. However, I was accepted into the program at Washington University in St. Louis, where I studied with Nobel laureate Douglass North. I received a Ph.D. in 1992 but didn’t get an academic job until 1994, when I became the Clarence Efrogmson Chair/Professor of Economics at Butler University. After 25 years, six books and dozens of articles (for general as well as scholarly audiences) published, 14 different courses taught, as well as lots of good college basketball games attended, I retired as the Efrogmson Professor, effective May 2019 — just in time to avoid the COVID-19 disruption at Butler.

“On the personal side, I have been married to a wonderful person and scholar for 36 years. We have two sons — one of whom is a lawyer, the other a writer (I don’t know where he got that from). Though both thought about going to Columbia, neither applied. My younger son was hoping to play college baseball (which he did at Williams College) and needed to be recruited by the CU coach (which he wasn’t), and my older son told me, ‘It’s a lot harder to get into Columbia now than it was when you applied,’ so he never sent in an application. But of course, he was right.”

The Summer 2020 issue included an obituary for **Heyward Dotson**, who was part of the great Columbia basketball team with **Jimmy McMillan** (also now deceased) that made us all proud. I regret his passing.



1971

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Bill Christophersen TC'78 writes, "My fourth collection of poetry, *Where Truth Lies*, was published in April. Its edge is urban; its mix of styles skews formal. It ends with a rendition of the Anglo-Saxon poem *The Seafarer* that received the 2016 Translation Prize from the poetry journal *Rhino*."

Bill is also spending his time locked down by reading epics such as Derek Walcott's *Omeros*.

On a sad note, Bill informs us that **Rafael "Ray" Leonardo Black** died on March 15, 2020, from complications of COVID-19. Bill remembers his arid sense of humor, as well as his unique artistic talent. He demonstrated an early version of his art when he illustrated the campus literary magazine *Atman*'s cover.

Ray was born in Aruba. He spoke and read English, Dutch, French and Spanish. He showed unique talent as a draftsman and artist as a child. His parents encouraged his artistic

many, including symbolists, surrealists, poetry and art. He was an avid reader in all of the languages he was fluent in, reading epic and classic mythology. Ray managed to introduce psychedelic effects into his work, while demonstrating his interest in classic mythology. He explored his African-American roots via his works and portraits.

For 30 years Ray labored in his small studio apartment in Brooklyn tucked away like a monk. To paraphrase a quote from Ray's obit in *The New York Times*, he read and made pictures because when an artist stops making art, he stops being an artist.

Ray was recognized for his art at 64 with a personal show called *Insiders Art*, held at Francis M. Naumann Fine Art gallery. It received a wonderful review by *The New York Times*'s art critic. They had so much interest in Ray that a follow-up interview by the *Times* was arranged. His last appearance in the *Times* was his obituary.

Ray left Columbia a semester short of graduating on time. He never returned, as he kept busy with his art and supporting his work with small jobs. He will be missed by his College friends with whom

ogy at the University of Michigan, Emily earned a Ph.D. at Columbia. Subsequent to that they moved to Durham, N.C., where Nick opened a geology consulting business.

He loved reading literature, with particular interest in archeology and antiques. His passions included jazz, art and architecture. Nick became a skilled woodworker and blacksmith. He volunteered with Habitat for Humanity and the Durham Public Library. He also helped found the Lerner Jewish Community Day School in Durham. From all I have read about Nick, he never forgot the ideals his Columbia education instilled in him.

James Holte communicates that during the lockdown he has stayed home or socially distanced. Recently retired as professor emeritus of English and film studies at East Carolina University, he notes that the position enabled him for many years to read great books and watch excellent movies while the state of North Carolina paid him for it. He has written several books. The last was *Imagining the End: The Apocalypse in American Popular Culture*. He did devote a section to pandemics; very intuitive.

When he retired, James, accompanied by his wife, traveled by train across the nation. This recreated his 1969 Jack Kerouac '44-style hitchhiking trip, without the dangers of strangers. Although a long train trip should be put on hold for the foreseeable future, James suggests a long Amtrak ride as a great experience.

Ray Stricker PS'78 says COVID-19 has all of San Francisco "hiding and hoping." When school reopens and the kids and teachers share rooms and breathe on each other, it is very worrisome. Ray's daughter, Zoe, is finishing an M.F.A. at Bennington College and will, she hopes, get to see the beautiful Vermont fall foliage. His son, Avi, works for Schrödinger, which develops drug design software platforms for Big Pharma, so, it hopes soon, it can design one for a COVID-19 vaccine. Ray's wife, Gina, retired from NASA. Ray remains specialized in fighting tick-borne diseases via telemedicine, but he has raised his voice for more aggressive preventative measures against COVID-19.

Our class's presently most-renowned individual, **William P.**

Barr, was featured on the cover of *The New York Times Magazine* section on June 7. He was the subject of the feature article in that issue, "William Barr's State of Emergency," by Matthias Schwartz.

As humans over 70, all of our class must take care — social distancing, PPE (masks), washing our hands regularly, trying to not contact surfaces that could be contaminated and so on. Be serious about preventative measures. We are a select group, the Class of 1971, and we are leaving our mark on the world. Let's try to continue to have a chance to do just that.

1972

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As I write this in early summer, we are in strange times on the Columbia campus. You probably know that classes went virtual and most students went home in March. The eerily empty campus has become a place where young people and families can enjoy some fresh air and some greenery while socially distancing. None of us know what the fall will bring. However, life goes on in Morningside Heights: People socially distance while waiting to pick up their orders at Shake Shack, and the old West End is undergoing yet another conversion, this time to a game café. And life goes on for our classmates as well.

Sherwin Borsuk writes that he and his wife, Ruth, are "keeping a low profile at home and find ourselves enjoying the slower pace of life social distancing necessitates. I am happily retired since 2016. My radiology group has grown from 10 to 35 since then and I would not have enjoyed going large and corporate.

"Ruth and I have three wonderful granddaughters — Rosalind, Dorothea and Calla, ages 3.5 years, 2.5 years and 8 weeks — and are enjoying our grandparental dotage. Our last trip pre-COVID was to Morocco, which was fascinating and colorful. We learned a great deal about Moroccan history as well as about two Jewish groups who had lived there, those in the Atlas Mountains and those from the Spanish expulsion, and their differing customs. Looking forward to travel again when reality allows."

Recently retired James Holte '71 traveled by train across the nation, recreating his 1969 Jack Kerouac '44-style hitchhiking trip without the dangers of strangers.

pursuits. He moved to New York in 1965 and became involved in the culture of the Village and the new age of rock 'n' roll — visiting many of the small clubs, he saw musicians such as Jimi Hendrix prior to their fame. The self-trained draftsman's unique art forced his discovery by literary culture of the village.

Ray developed his style of straight line, pencil art that earned him recognition to the point of drawing illustrations for reviews in *Crawdaddy*, an iconic village scene magazine. In 1967 he illustrated the magazine's reviews of The Beatles's *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* and Jimi Hendrix's *Are You Experienced*.

His black and white, linear, detailed and precise technique was so intricate that to fully appreciate it, often the viewer needed a magnifying glass. His sources were

remained close, including John Taylor '69, SOA'75 and **Tej Harazika**.

Rev. **Taigen Dan Leighton** is using his quarantine time to check in with his congregation members while sheltering at home, out of respect to age and health. He also informs *CCT* that his good friend **Nick Bogen** GSAS'83, who graduated with CC'77, passed recently.

Both Nick and Dan took time off after the intensity of emotions from the 1968 spring semester. Dan expressed for both of them that they identify with our class.

Nick earned a doctorate in geology from Columbia in 1983. He grew up on the Long Island Sound, developing a deep love of sailing and nature from his youth. At Columbia, Nick met his wife, Emily Klein BC'78, GSAS'89, who was attending Barnard. While he taught geol-

Right here in the neighborhood is **Jonathan Crary** GSAS'87, who since 1989 has been teaching at Columbia, where he is the Meyer Schapiro Professor of Modern Art and Theory. His twin boys, who grew up in Morning-side Heights, attended the Columbia K-8 school. Jonathan teaches courses in areas of 19th-century art, media studies, and issues in technology and visual culture. He writes, "My recent book, *24/7: Late Capitalism and the Ends of Sleep*, staked out some new directions for my work; it's been translated into 21 foreign languages so far. Since the mid-1980s I've been a co-editor of *Zone Books*, which I started with two fellow CU grad students, and it's now an internationally noted small press for philosophy, art, social theory and history."

If you haven't written in because you're sure you wrote recently, take a lesson from **Wayne Cypen**: "I got your email inviting me to contribute to *CCT* Class Notes, and I thought, 'I just did that not long ago.' Imagine my surprise when I went back to my last submission and saw it was almost 10 years ago!"

"Some things haven't changed. I'm still the chair of the Miami Alumni Representative Committee, now going on 40 consecutive years, and Columbia is even more popular — and even more selective. I have actually interviewed a number of applicants whose parents I had interviewed. I take pride in the fact that our region consistently ranks among the leaders in number of interviews completed and percentage of applicants interviewed when compared to regions of our size (we had 404 applicants this year). I am also on the Board of Directors and chair of the investment committee of Miami Jewish Health Systems."

But Wayne does have changes in the family. His older son, Jeremy, graduated from medical school at the top of his class (earning Alpha Omega Alpha honors), did an internal medicine residency at Duke and worked there for a year before accepting a hospitalist position at UC Irvine, where his wife, Sanja, an ophthalmologist, is doing a two-year fellowship in oculoplastics. He says, "Jeremy and Sanja welcomed their first child — and our first grandchild — Jackson, in September 2018."

Wayne's younger son, Scott, graduated from the University of Maryland and earned a master's in sport

administration from the University of Miami. In January 2019, Scott married Lindsey, and the couple moved to Boston, where Lindsey is in her final year of residency in ob/gyn at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. Scott recently earned a second master's (in business administration) from Boston College and works for a boutique private wealth management company. Says Wayne, "Red Sox fans will envy the fact that he can see the field at Fenway Park from the roof of his apartment building. Both couples hope to return in the near future to live in Miami Beach."

"These days my wife and I are staying safe at home, while Florida, and Miami in particular, have become hotspots for the COVID-19 pandemic. Because I've been retired for 22 years, we are used to spending both our days and nights together. Our two favorite vacations — cruising and Las Vegas — are, not surprisingly, suspended for the foreseeable future. Ironically, the virus has brought me closer to many high school friends, as well as a number of cousins, through regular Zoom conferences. I continue to enjoy listening to books on my daily walks, and for the first time, I've binge-watched Netflix and Amazon Prime shows."

"To all my Columbia classmates, I wish you the best. Please be well and stay safe!"

Finally, **Ron Cohen** PS'76 reflects that these are "strange times indeed. I can confirm that my Carman roommates, **Ed Reisner** and **Tom Shorten**, are at least well enough to read emails occasionally. I'm still active as a clinical professor of pediatrics/neonatology at Stanford. One of my 'hats' is disaster preparedness, which is keeping me particularly busy on Zoom lately. When not in the NICU, I'm able to social distance at our cabin with internet in the Sierra mountains. I'm guessing it'll be a while before I'll safely be able to board a plane, walk through JFK and revisit Morningside Heights. My middle child, Emily, graduated from high school this past spring without any graduation, prom or goodbye, and is now waiting to find out if she'll actually be able to go to the UC Santa Barbara campus she fell in love with, or if it will turn out to be a 'correspondence course' college."

"Best to all my fellow Columbians — please wear a mask and stay safe!"

Let us know how you've been coping with our current world. And do stay safe.

1973

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Someday we will tell our grandkids about living through this time. Many of us are experiencing it with them.

James Minter hopes that all have stayed safe; he and his husband, David, have been ensconced in their Hudson Valley retreat since early March. Lots of books, DVDs and long walks are the order of the days, and their "closets have never been cleaner." They will mark 30 years together in September.

As noted in *Columbia* magazine, **Robert Katzmman** was presented the 2020 Vilcek Prize for Excellence in Administration of Justice, an award that honors champions of immigrant causes. He is the chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, recognized for broadening access to legal representation.

Eugene Drucker, as mentioned in this column previously, is a founding member of the Emerson String Quartet; as well, his first novel, *The Savior*, was published in 2007. He expects to finish his second by next summer. The Quartet's recording of three Schumann quartets will be released in late October; their concert schedule has been canceled until some indeterminate future, for obvious reasons. Eugene has been on the faculty at SUNY Stony Brook since 2002. He has composed several works for voice and strings, as well.

There you have it. Stay safe, be smart, be well. This, too, shall pass.

1974

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The pandemic has disrupted many aspects of our lives. This included the ability of our *CCT* staff to produce the print version of the Summer 2020 issue. But fear not — you can find it online at college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/summer20. Just click on the Class Notes link, type "1974" in the box and you will be able to read updates from a

variety of classmates. Unfortunately, it also gives details on a classmate who passed away in April: **Carl Yirka**. As you will read, Carl had just retired from a 30-year career at the Vermont Law School Library (most recently as its director). The timing of his death only makes it feel more tragic.

An email came in with the intriguing subject line: "Once every 40 years ...". It was from **Paul Mondor**, who admitted to last updating us around 1980. Seems like around that time he was working in the family business and "trying to find myself." Chance had it that a buddy took him for a ride in a small Cessna: "I fell in love with flying, so much so that I left the family business and started down the aviation highway."

After a few years at a commuter airline, Paul was hired by Delta, and during the next 33 years he logged many miles flying all over the world. "In the course of all this travel I met a woman from Scotland who lured me there one summer day. I fell for her and now consider Scotland my home for the past 12 years," he shares. You might also find Paul at his home in Highland Beach, Fla. He retired in 2017 and says he is filling his days with golf, fly fishing, cycling and skiing. He says, "Some days it is hard to decide which to do first!"

I'm sure there are many classmates actively involved in the COVID-19 crisis, but I'll pass on updates from two of our pandemic docs. **Dr. Christopher Puca** wrote from Tucson about what he called "a beautiful day in the neighborhood." He tells of standing in a parking lot examining an individual in his pickup for possible COVID-19. He said it was made more challenging by the 106-degree Tucson sun, being attired in a full hazmat suit, face mask, goggles and gloves, and the smoke from a nearby forest fire that gagged him and his colleagues. (Think of this when you hear someone complain about being required to wear a mask at Walmart!)

Another classmate on the front lines of battling the virus is **Dr. Larry Stam** (who lives in Manhattan and is a nephrologist at NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital). He tells us that he has had to deal with the acute renal failure that afflicts many coronavirus patients. Larry also sits on the medical board at the hospital.



He added that he occasionally bumps into Dr. **Reggie Manning** PS'78, who is an orthopedist at Methodist Hospital.

For the past 30 years, Dr. **David DiJohn** has been doing research on and treatment of pediatric infectious diseases, including infants and children with HIV/AIDS. He directed a pediatric AIDS clinic in New York, taught clinical pediatrics at the NYU Medical Center and was the director of pediatric infectious disease for the Flushing Hospital Medical Center in New York. As best I can tell, David moved to Nevada in 2014 to become an associate professor of pediatrics at the Reno School of Medicine and for the past three years has done the same at the University of Nevada School of Medicine.

I saw a Facebook post from **Mark Mogul** (who lives in Port Washington, N.Y.) announcing the latest member of the greater Class of '74 family, as Mark welcomed a third grandchild.

I wonder how long it will be before the number of grandchildren will outnumber the number of classmates?

A press release came in saying **Les Bryan** JRN'75 (who lives in Derby, U.K.) has taken over as president of the Rotary Club of Derby. It noted that due to COVID-19, Les will face the challenge of holding club meetings and events online.

From the West Coast came an update from **Garrett Johnson** (an entertainment lawyer who splits his time between Los Angeles and Mount Vernon, N.Y.). Garrett comments on the occasional retirement announcements in this column: "Kudos to all those in the position and who have the inclination to make that choice. I am fortunate to have a vocation that is also an avocation, which I still very much enjoy."

Garrett recently began a one-year tenure as president of The California Copyright Conference, a 50-year-old professional trade organization involving the practical and legal aspects of copyright law, licensing and publishing. He was also selected to be one of the legal counselors to the estate of jazz legend **Thelonius Monk**. Garrett clues us in to be on the lookout for an "undiscovered gem" — a live performance by Monk that is expected to be released this summer (*Monk - Palo Alto*). Garrett says the estate has a "treasure trove of Monk material being catalogued for exploitation and I hope some-

thing that will keep me tasked for the foreseeable future."

A bonus item for those that have made it to the end of this column. Walking by Tom's Restaurant recently, I saw the latest item to be added to its traditional menu of greasy items (and, of course, cups of "creamo"): a lobster roll. I had to go in to find the price of this delectable: \$19.50. Seems like a good time to add a "caveat emptor!"

There you have it. Updates from classmates battling infections in various parts of the country, a grandchild joining our ranks and classmates following differing paths to and in retirement. Take a moment to pass on how you are spending your waning years as a sexagenarian!

1975

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First, an apology for not submitting Class Notes for the Summer 2020 issue! Miss 'Rona (aka coronavirus) is not the only thing that can play whack-a-mole with an old guy's body! I am healthy again and enjoying life in Baltimore with my two cats.

Melih "Mel" Dogan LAW'78 was appointed in January as an arbitrator in art with the Court of Arbitration for Art, a joint initiative of the Netherlands Arbitration Institute and the Authentication in Art Organization. CAFA was founded to resolve disputes in the wider art community through mediation and arbitration. Mel has more than 40 years of business arbitration and litigation experience in U.S. federal and state courts, as well as international forums, and he has represented numerous artists and collectors in contractual disputes with galleries. He also has negotiated and provided representation for gallery-artist contracts, art shipment and storage issues, art taxation and estate matters, art-related labor claims and Art Fair agreements. Mel co-founded, with investors, the C24 Gallery in Chelsea, New York City. For the past nine years, it has showcased an international coterie of painters, sculptors, installation and video artists; has participated in more than 25 art fairs in the United States and globally; and has hosted more than 35 artist exhibitions since

its inception. Mel's educational background also includes the NYU master's in taxation program. Visit his CAFA profile: bit.ly/30VqFuk.

Jose "Cheo" Diaz has written a short autobiography, *From the Streets of New York City*. Jose covers his career in Latin music radio, as a baseball commentator, in a DA's office, as a judge and as an attorney practicing in Boca Raton, Fla. His book is about an individual raised in the tough streets of Spanish Harlem who became successful, and is available in Chinese, French, German, Spanish and English. Jose broadcasted his radio show "The Mambo Machine" on WKCR radio at Columbia 1971–2001.

Peter Garza-Zavaleta has been living in Germany (Erlangen, Bavaria — close to Nuremberg) with his partner, Hendrik Reinke, for four years. Peter still has his place in Sitges, Spain, outside of Barcelona. He loves to travel, and does so as often as he can, mainly in Europe, Mexico and the U.S. He is a business English and Spanish language trainer for Siemens, but is enjoying semi-retirement. Peter is a member of the Neukirche Kantorei Choir in Erlangen, singing in concerts and loving it. He continues to paint; check out his work at petergarza.art. He enjoys riding his bike, cooking and of course eating out! Recently Peter took a wine tasting tour in La Rioja, spending time in the Basque area of San Sebastian, where his family is from.

Jorge "George" de Jesus Guttlein SIPA'79, LAW'79 passed away on December 23, 2019. I asked his good friend **Fernando Castro** to share a few words on his passing: "Jorge would have been 67 on the 29th of December. He is survived by his son, Juan Carlos; wife, Luisa; and grandchildren, Siboney Rose and Joaquin Ronin Guttlein. Gregarious and generous, it was impossible not to know him, as he was a security guard at various Columbia College dormitories on a work-study program. Jorge had an unmistakable laugh that was accepting of everyone and that cut through any pretensions. During his years at the College, rather than opting for more spacious quarters, he remained in 12 John Jay with classmates who remained friends/family for life. The only son of a single mother, Jorge approached his studies with a strong

work ethic, an attitude of gratitude for the financial assistance he received from Columbia and a willingness to help others. Jorge practiced law for more than 30 years in criminal and immigration litigation, including in the Latino community, during the present anti-immigrant administration. He started **Jorge Guttlein & Associates** in 2007, and he mentored young attorneys. For us out-of-towners, no visit to New York was complete without stopping to visit Jorge, who managed to find time to meet friends despite his impossible schedule. Future visits will never be the same."

Phelps Hawkins and his wife, Sandra, fled the humid and, in these days, somewhat crazy American South, for their second home in the Adirondacks. Pictures of them sailing make me drool!

Reminding me that he was the original class correspondent in the 1970s but had not contributed to our Class Notes since, **Eugene R. Hurley III** now has plenty to share. He was in the mood to do so because he's making a big life change — after a lifetime in the NYC metro area, he and his wife moved to Bloomington, Ind., for his retirement years.

After graduation, Gene was a trade magazine editor, then entered Brooklyn Law School, graduating in 1982. During and after law school he was a clerk for U.S. Magistrate John Caden in the Eastern District of New York. In 1983, Gene joined the Manhattan D.A.'s Office as an assistant D.A., spending the next 35 years there before retiring in the middle of 2018, working in the Trial Division and specializing in homicide cases as well as sex trafficking rings. He was appointed a senior trial counsel in 1994, and says that the work was always challenging and engaging.

For the past few years, Gene's been creating a collection of walking guides to Paris, France, for cell phones. It involves a great deal of historical research (and yes, visits to Paris and learning to read French).

Gene married a Brooklyn Law School classmate, **Margaret Schaefer**, in 1982. They have two sons, **Bill** and **Peter**. **Bill** (34) is a successful software engineer, and **Peter** (31) is a successful patent agent, both in the New York area. Gene and Margaret divorced in 2003. In 2004, after meeting on Match.com, Gene

married Ivy Millerand, and they remain happily married.

Gene has lived in Manhattan, Long Island (where he grew up) and northern New Jersey (where he's been since 2004). Ivy is from northern Jersey, though she has also lived in New Brunswick and briefly in Denver. In NYC, they had a great view of the Manhattan skyline and were planning on staying put. Then came a visit to Gene's sister and brother-in-law in Bloomington (they have lived there for four decades, since attending the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music). Gene and Ivy met their vast array of friends and saw the many cultural offerings at the university, and they also noticed the big improvements to the town since Gene was last there in 2008, including dozens of ethnic restaurants, the many outdoor recreational opportunities and the lack of traffic. Deciding they had nothing tying them to the NYC area, they made the move, and have no second thoughts.

Reacting to an article in *CCT*, **Albert Mrozk** reminds us that he was the first openly gay judge appointed to a New Jersey municipal court, in 1993.

Ken Scherzer has submitted his final grades and retired. He looks forward to having more time to do research and spend time on things that he enjoys. Like many of us, Ken was excited about the reunion Zoom call, but disappointed when he (we) didn't receive connection details in time to participate.

Bob Schneider is now a third-degree Knight of Columbus.

Founded on the principles of charity, unity and fraternity, the Knights were established in 1882 by Father Michael J. McGivney while an assistant pastor of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Conn. Its intent was to bring financial aid and assistance to the sick, disabled and needy members and their families.

Edwin Vega enjoyed **Jose "Cheo" Diaz's** book (mentioned earlier). Edwin teaches mathematics to high-risk high school students in the Los Angeles area.

By the way, **Gene Hurley's** note reminded me of how I became your class correspondent. I had just moved to Louisiana, was uncomfortable being a gay Yankee in the conservative deep south, was in the process of getting a divorce and was in general not very happy with life. Then **Terry Mulry** and **Allan Bahrs '63, BUS'65** from the Alumni Office contacted me and twisted my arm to take on the challenge of being class correspondent. I don't know what they were thinking, but doing so forced me to reestablish ties to New York and to you all. It's been an amazing ride since! Go Lions!

1976

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Here's hoping all my classmates are faring well in these trying times. I usually send out a broadcast email to get updates, but with everyone in slow-motion mode, depending on where you are, I relied on my contacts with the usual list of suspects, and there is almost nothing extraordinary to report. Everyone I talked to had mainly "not much different" news, and the bad news is usually not theirs to report.

I received the following update from **Tom Schwartz** at Vanderbilt University about his latest book: "*Henry Kissinger and American Power: A Political Biography*" was published on August 25. Book promotion in the age of COVID-19 means that I will be doing some Zoom interviews, but I can't do the traditional bookstore appearances or signings. But I would be delighted to sign any Columbia classmate's copy if they want to send it along. I am in my 30th year at Vanderbilt, and while we don't have

CC or Humanities requirements, I still benefit from those educational treasures in my own teaching."

For the rest of this column, I want to share my personal reflections on isolation in an urban environment, and hope it will inspire '76ers to share their thoughts for the next column.

Family: Seeing everyone without the usual kisses and hugs is difficult. Since my three children are all relatively local, but also in urban environments, most meetings are with masks. I did experiment with a recent outdoor Mexican restaurant gathering. The evening was very enjoyable and almost normal. Unfortunately, events like bar mitzvahs and weddings have been canceled for the most part or happen on Zoom, which is not the same thing. But in true '76er fashion, I usually have a drink during any Zoom event.

Alumni: Columbia has done a really good job staying in touch, offering interesting live events and making them available via streaming. The Earth Institute in particular has had some interesting scientific/medical discussions of the pandemic.

Zoom reunions with certain activities and classmates have also been enjoyable. Plus, the usual telephone calls are important and meaningful. Please reach out to me if you want to be included or notified about any Columbia alumni activities. I can get you on the list with the Alumni Office or email you when I am doing one.

Work: Since January 2019, I have worked about 80 hours a month as a bookkeeper for a technology firm. Since we have resources worldwide, the online video discussions were part of our normal operations, so there was no real adjustment once the shutdown came. In general, we use Teams, but all of those programs are similar.

Friends: Interestingly, when I walk around Hoboken and recognize a masked-up person, it is a terrific encounter. I live very close to a Starbucks, and I think that people, just to get out, are buying more coffee than ever. I am still trying to save money out of habit and make coffee at home.

Another great part of my week is a regular Zoom call with a Barnard classmate who has lived in Egypt with her husband for the last 15 years. Every Friday at 7 a.m., we talk for more than 90 minutes —

reminiscing and looking forward. Also, we compare the situation in Egypt to the United States, and the time just flies.

Dining: My cooking has been improving by leaps and bounds. I am now making vegetarian chili with kidney beans and lentils and a number of other non-meat dishes. I am trying to lose weight, unsuccessfully, because either my cooking is so good, or my cooking is totally compromising my previously delicate sense of taste. I also have driven to West 110th and Amsterdam to get V&T to go. It has to stay there post-pandemic or my heart will be broken! Plus, we still need a gathering place for our Thursday or Friday night 45th reunion meetup in June 2021 (staying optimistic!).

Hobbies and household repairs: This is the most exciting category. Piano-playing has become so much fun, as I endeavor for the first time in years to learn new classical music. I am working on new Debussy and Field nocturnes, and continuing with Beethoven, Bach, Chopin, Gershwin and Schubert piano works that I know — plus more. My audience of one (me) thinks I play terrifically. That's my story and I am sticking to it!

Household repairs have been an adventure. I have a very capable handyman, Elvis ("Elvis is in the house!" is what I declare to my kids when a repair project is underway). My late wife's Singer sewing machine needed rebuilding, so we got some gears and my mask-making (for free) business is still steaming along. Let me know if you need masks. Classmates will not pay anything, so I don't get criticism or complaints.

The other major repair was my gas dryer. More than 30 years ago, we bought a stackable White-Westinghouse washer/dryer set that ended up separated under the kitchen counter. The washer has been replaced three times, the dryer was still the original. In March, it started malfunctioning. So, Elvis and I removed the motor and started our tinkering. I was not eager to replace it at the beginning, since who wanted a new dryer that came with the coronavirus? Also, the size could not be matched and a new gas dryer would have necessitated a total kitchen remake.

Elvis and I (the retired printer, who did those repairs for 20 years)



Send in Your News

Share what's happening in your life with classmates. Click "Contact Us" at college.columbia.edu/cct, or send news to the address at the top of your column.



started diagnosing the motor problem and ultimately replaced the GE starter switch, and the dryer is now humming along like new. The best part of this story is when I asked Elvis, "How long will this dryer last in this kitchen?" His answer was, "Longer than you!" You got to love Elvis.

I hope you enjoyed this column about my thoughts and adventures. I am looking forward to some equally pleasant reflections from classmates for the next issue. So, send in your updates! Stay healthy, stay safe and keep smiling.

1977

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"Stay well, wash your hands and don't touch your face," advises first-time respondent **Michael Katzman** PS'81, who gets to say this because he is a professor at Penn State College of Medicine, specializing in infectious diseases. Michael recounts, "After medical school, where I met my wife, we moved to Cleveland and then to Hershey, Pa." At the Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, Michael divides his time roughly equally among teaching, clinical work and "directing our Antimicrobial Stewardship Program, which I developed as my 25 years of basic research on retrovirus integrase enzymes was winding down." Michael and his wife "raised three wonderful children, who graduated from Wellesley (and then P&S), Yale and Hopkins, and who live in Idaho, the Philly area and San Francisco," concluding, "I hope the world will settle down so we can visit them again." We all second that. Oh, and he mentions that "it was great reconnecting with **John Santamaria**, **Leslie Cohen** and **Mark Ligorski** at our 40th reunion in 2017."

We last heard from **Bill Dorsey** not long after that same reunion, when his house in northern California (along with more than 1,000 others) burned in the Tubbs Fire. "My wife, Lynn, and I were fortunate to find a comfortable home about seven miles away, after a couple of months of jumping from place to place. Two stressful years of dealing with insurance, architects and builders led us to being able

to move back to our home on October 1, 2019. Just in time for fire evacuation orders two weeks later!" However, "Since then, we have been enjoying our new home, now furnished, landscaped and comfortable. Lynn and I both work at local hospitals" — Bill is a clinical social worker — "so we have something resembling a familiar routine. Hospital work can be stressful under the best of circumstances, and now the pandemic has raised the levels." Bill remarks that it is "so unsettling to have an uncertain future" but also that, obviously, "Our family has survived trauma, and continued, and we will keep moving forward."

I heard from **Walter Simson**, who lives in Irvine, Calif., and is CEO of an international tech company. "I commuted weekly from New Jersey until my back just couldn't take it anymore, at which point my wife and I moved to California. This is my fifth cross-country move for a CEO assignment and is probably the best in terms of, say, surf quality." If this were not enough, Walter has other aspirations: "My long-form writing projects are on hold. (Turnarounds are bad for aspiring novelists. Too many plot twists in real life.) I did maintain a weekly CEO column for Inc.com for a number of years, and I've recently taken out a notebook for some other ideas. Other than that, I'm being tutored in German. My language skills are not improving, but German grammar is said to be good for warding off early dementia." In the Before Time, Walter adds, "I saw **Bill Gray** a number of times in New York and enjoyed those meetings. **Geoff Levitt** '76 (my Carman suitemate freshman year and my best man some time later) have gotten together in New York, on Zoom and in Tokyo, not in that order."

Greetings also from **Michael Haley**, who has been writing songs in the last two or three years (more than 100 as of when he wrote me), and has started recording them, as well.

1978

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I'm not sure where to start, except to say that 46 years ago when we showed up for Orientation — and yes, I know that we didn't have a real

one and that there was no Facebook that year — not one of us would have predicted that the USA and world be where it is today. Nor could we have predicted that the very term "Columbia" and what it stood for — an alternative and proud claim of patriotism and a synonym for America itself — would be subject to historical and perhaps soon existential questioning. And yet, in the Core that we were soon diving into as freshman (or "first-years," as it is now correct to say) — which recently celebrated 100 years — there was always a hint that nothing is promised to anyone, that there are no easy answers or even obvious questions, and that just when all seems lost, often the worst is yet to come. Still, we were taught that you can survive and then go on to victory or understanding, or at least to write an insightful description of what just happened and a theory on how to avoid it the next time.

So I can only say that the Class of 1978, as with all those mid-second half of the 20th century Morningside Heights classes, is made of sterner stuff, and I doubt that 2020 will get us down for long if at all.

One of our many class scientists, **J. Alexander "Alec" Bodkin** (of McLean Hospital, an affiliate of Harvard Medical School) shares, "As for the pandemic itself, this is a completely unanticipated chapter in the history of human life. I appreciate the intellectual help Columbia provided us to deal with this unanticipated catastrophe. I hope that Columbia is able to refrain from 'canceling' the expression of thinking that does not adhere to the views required by the far left. Princeton has plummeted from its prior heights by eagerly indulging the preposterous demands of those who despise the efforts of past Americans. Columbia must not do the same."

"The political offerings for November are not that compelling, but Joseph Biden is not terrifying, while Trump is a horror. But if Biden edges much further to satisfy the demand of the far left, he too may become a horror. What we should do then, I do not know."

"I read endlessly about the magnificent efforts of Winston Churchill to save the West. I hope that our parents' generations' sacrifices are not threatened by those who reject intellectual freedom

and the freedom of markets, in the pursuit of fanciful models of human progress. Beyond that, my corner of the world is adapting to survive the dangers of disease, in which setting I continue to work to advance medical treatments to alleviate mental illness, mild and severe. Outrageously, much of that work must be done with medicines never granted FDA approval for the care of mental illness, and thus never provided insurance coverage for that purpose; or with medicines approved long ago, with the result of a virtual absence of recent academic support comparing these treatments to the current, often feeble 'standard of care,' simply for lack of industry support, which is now virtually the only support of academic research in clinical psychopharmacology. As I gradually retire from direct patient care, it is my intention to publish a textbook including the best clinical findings of the past to guide current-day clinicians to the best care of the many forms of mental illness, without regard to the latest commercial products on offer."

I have had the good fortune to catch up with a number of '78ers during sessions organized by fellow Columbia scribe **Ken Howitt** '76, as described here by the inimitable **Tom Mariam**: "The one good thing to come out of the pandemic has been the opportunity to reunite, as a group, with many friends from Columbia. I have enjoyed regular Zoom calls with the WKCR sports staff of the 1970s (including **Matt Nemerson** and **Jeff Klein**) and also the Board of Governors of the Columbia University Club of New York, which included a lot of 1978ers (**Fred Rosenstein**, **Tom Bisdale**, **Don Simone** and **Ed Deitch**). I also dug into my Columbia roots during the pandemic by ordering dinner from V&T, even though I live in Westchester. We have to make sure that V&T is not a casualty of COVID-19. It has meant a lot to all of us all these many years."

I think Tom makes a great point about V&T, and I go there when my wife, **Marian Chertow** BC'77, and I visit the neighborhood. It would be great if everyone went out of their way to keep ordering during these difficult times.

Back to the medical world with word from Dr. **Bob Crochelt**: "I retired from surgery in February. Looking for another thing to do,

but the plague has made it a little difficult. Moving from Montana to California where my wife, Dr. Donna Smith, will finish out her career. Then, if we are both stay healthy, who knows?

"One thing we learned for certain at Columbia was how to read, which I find a great comfort these days.

"For November we will either elect Biden and return somewhat back to a rule of law, or elect 'tRump' again and wind up living in a dictatorship, ruled by executive orders enforced perhaps by force.

"Looking at the issues of the BLM movement we also learned that we are all equal. Historically, certain groups have clearly been left

Mintz Levin came to the rescue of this column: "Working from home has been challenging on several levels. The work part is not really a problem but staying in touch with my clients, friends and contacts, and doing networking and business development, is difficult. It has also been hard seeing my grandchildren at a distance and not being able to hug them and roll on the grass with them. My 'night job,' as an EMT on my local volunteer ambulance, has also been challenging. Late March and April are just a blur, trying to work from home and dealing with five times our normal call volume on the ambulance service was difficult. The back seat of my car looks like

more democratic and more normal politics. Otherwise, I shudder to imagine. On the issue of BLM, I believe I recognize the incredible scope of white privilege, more than I ever knew. I hope the BIPOC population will be helped by our government due to the insistence of the population that every American citizen should be treated equally, and having a permanently poor, over-policed class living in areas deprived of many services white people like me assume we can get, is not only untenable but an affront to what America should stand for."

We are all fine here. My wife had to and will again probably teach her Yale classes on Zoom, but she picked it up quickly and once we installed a new fiber-optic connection in our house it all went well. My daughter in Shanghai, Joy, was the one we were worried about in February, and now she worries about us.

And with that we conclude the class column written (like all), from home, but which hopes to find you all safe at home and with healthy families and with lives not too terribly impacted by the current situation. I thought the scariest thing I would be writing about this year was starting to think about Medicare, but as often happens, reality got in the way. Stay well and write soon.

1979

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Today's Columbia thought comes courtesy of the COVID-19 pandemic. I was intrigued by the offer to participate in a Columbia Alumni Association Zoom lecture, courtesy of the music department, titled "Lessons From Jazz."

The miracle of today's technology makes our campus journey 45 years ago seem truly prehistoric. The whole idea of a Columbia professor associating the revolution in music that was jazz, to the science of microbiology and coping with a virus, immediately struck the Columbia chord that lives within me. I finished a long day in surgery and could not wait to get home to do something that I had not done since I sat in 309 Havemeyer Hall. I took out a legal pad and a pen, just like I would have done with my

Columbia notebook back in the day. I decided that I should be prepared to take notes even though there would be no test; it was an experience of pure learning.

I then told myself, "Why are you taking notes? Just enjoy the lecture." But I was so glad I had my notebook and pen because, like a salmon, I was swimming upstream to where learning first really entered my life, the halls of Columbia College. The Zoom lecture professor, Chris Washburne GSAS'99, was fantastic. He gave a beautiful history of the racial divide that was New Orleans, including cartoons from the newspaper at the turn of the last century, when a crowd of white "owners" refuse to listen to "slave music." He was clearly a master of the world of music, yet the metaphor that he saw in jazz touched me deeply.

As an orthopedic surgeon for 31 years, what I've learned to appreciate in more than 15,000 operations is that my life in the operating room is also a lot like jazz. The steps of a surgery from beginning to end do not come with an owner's manual like your car, a machine built by a human being. Rather, I work each day on a machine built by something else. Whether you believe in God or not, it is a privilege to work on this miraculous machine. Even if I am replacing the "other" knee on a patient for whom years ago I did the contralateral side, in that same person the artery, the nerve, the ligament, the tendon, the muscle, the bone, the cartilage will not be exactly like the other side. What I learned in this lecture was that my world is actually also a world of jazz, and I must be ready for the Miles Davis (the artery) to change course mid-concert (surgery) and play my instrument (scalpel) slightly differently every time I play (work) in the operating room.

The professor closed his lecture by saying, "Each semester there are approximately 28 different classes for my students, and I tell my students to walk home a slightly different route after each lecture." He said, "You will be amazed at what you will find." He then said, "All of my students do this, and over the years have had the most incredible experiences that they tell me about; some met their future spouses; some changed careers because of what they saw on that walk home." It was special to

Dave Campbell '80, a highly lauded and board-certified spine surgeon, was on television during the pandemic, giving updates from Florida.

behind, especially POC and women. We must lift these groups up to assume their place in our society. We must continue to protect the rights of women to choose when they become pregnant and protect safe and legal abortion. We must protect the rights of LGBTQ and anyone else who is 'different.'

"I am reading *Against the Day*, by Thomas Pynchon. Long and challenging enough to last a plague. A few other things. Enjoying *London Review of Books*; *Paris Review*; and *Lapham's Quarterly*. The scientific literature, especially the recorded sessions from UCSF, have been fascinating, and I recommend them to get a better understanding of what is happening."

Bruce Fraser was succinct this time around: "If you want to know what I am doing, Zoom is now required. At Columbia, viruses were covered with Professor Bancroft and *King Lear*. In November, shouldn't we let the most technically astute win? To get a better sense of COVID-19 I am reviewing microbiology and organic chemistry."

And no 1978 Columbia class is complete without a few lawyers, and we have one who also volunteers in the emergency ambulance world — which qualifies for hero status, I think — so Jeffrey Moerdler of

a PPE warehouse. Now our call volume has settled down but it's still scary being out there. So far I have not been sick but who knows what to expect going forward?"

We also heard from Alfred Feliu LAW'81, of New Rochelle, N.Y.: "Most of my work is as an arbitrator and mediator of employment and commercial disputes, and in-person hearings and mediations were not only the norm but also almost invariably how such proceedings were conducted. No longer. Like everyone else, my professional life, for now at least, is almost all virtual. It is amazing how quickly things can change and how quickly we can adapt. I'm glad Columbia gave us the historical perspective and the value of truth and honest leadership.

"Looking to November I am most concerned about voter suppression and a commitment on the part of our own government not to interfere with our having a fair election. This can only bode poorly for what is ahead."

Joseph Schachner, from Teledyne LeCroy in Suffern, N.Y., is a column stalwart whom I thank for his many contributions over the years. He writes, "Columbia gave us a belief in science and trust of scientists. So, if Biden wins, who also has this belief, then we are headed for



me when he said, "all my students," because for a moment, I was so proud to be one of "his students," too.

Zoom, lion, zoom!

1980

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*Don't stop, thinking about tomorrow,
Don't stop, it'll soon be here,
It'll be, better than before,
Yesterday's gone, yesterday's gone.*

*Why not think about times to come,
And not about the things that
you've done,
If your life was bad to you,
Just think what tomorrow will do ...*

We all need to continue to think about what tomorrow will bring in the current environment, and we have seen encouraging signs in New York City this fall. If we remain diligent, we will come of this pandemic in a better place.

One thing I find myself doing more of is watching morning television, and I was pleased to see **Dave Campbell** giving us the updates from Florida. Dave, a physician, is board certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery, the American Board of Spine Surgery and the National Board of Physicians and Surgeons. His professional affiliations include the ABOS, the North American Spine Society, the American College of Spine Surgery and many others.

He lectures nationally and has authored numerous publications, articles and abstracts on spine surgery and spine surgery issues.

Additionally, Dave has served as a consultant to the U.S. Department of Justice, the State of Florida Office of the Attorney General for spine surgery and is an expert medical advisor to Florida's Agency for Healthcare Administration Division of Workers Compensation. He was for three years Jupiter Medical Center's director of spine surgery and has staff privileges at the following Palm Beach County hospitals: attending orthopedic spine surgeon at JMC and attending orthopedic spine surgeon at Jupiter Outpatient Surgery Center.

Throughout his career, Dave has been consistently recognized for his achievements, innovations and commitment to the highest standards of medical proficiency and ethics.

He is also committed to community service by volunteering his expertise and time to local school athletic teams as team physician.

Good work Dave, covering the events occurring nationally and in the Southeast.

I hope that you all remain safe and in good health. Drop me a line.

1981

Kevin Fay
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Thank you to **Dan Tamkin** for letting us know that his daughter

Emily Tamkin '12 has written a book, *The Influence of Soros: Politics, Power and the Struggle for Open Society*. She is also the U.S. editor of *NewStatesman*. [Editor's note: See "Bookshelf," Summer 2020.]

During this period of COVID-19, to be honest, I did not expect any updates from the class, as we are all dealing with this disease, and some have been impacted more than others. As for me, our adult children (three daughters) left their apartments and decamped in our house outside Charlottesville, Va., for more than a month, which was probably the first time all three have lived at home in more than a decade. For empty-nester parents, it was a little weird but nice to have them around. We took turns cooking dinner, and I have to admit the next generation is much better at this task than ours (the range of food they prepare and eat — wow).

The Class of 1981 has an important reunion coming up next June (our 40th). I encourage the class to consider attending, assuming the world returns to normal.

1982

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Greetings, gentlemen! The summer is now coming to a close, as we all close in on seven months of home confinement. I kinda feel like Paul Manafort, without the guilt issues

Checking in this period is our extraordinarily accomplished classmate (and our class's holder of the most degrees from Columbia, currently standing at five!) **Ed Harris GSAS'89, LAW'95**. He writes, "After retiring from practicing law in 2008, I returned to teaching and joined my children at The Kinkaid School in Houston, where I chair the history and social sciences department. I teach economics and A.P. U.S. government classes, and many of my students have attended Columbia, including my daughter Brynn '17. In response to the pandemic, I was pleased to create a door-dash Columbia graduation ceremony in Houston for my former student, **Grant Carmain '20**, who graduated magna cum laude with a degree in financial economics. Congrats, Grant, and the Class of 2020! Roar, Lion, Roar!"

Thanks for checking in, Ed! I buzzed around online and was able to look at some of the comments your students have posted about what a wonderful teacher and source of inspiration you have been. Really heartwarming to read!

Folks, drop me an email so we can all hear about what you're up to! It's really easy. Doesn't have to be anything Earth shattering.

1983

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I am sad to report the passing of Harlan Simon '81. Harlan was the drum major for the Columbia University Marching Band. As the featured halftime show juggler for the Marching Band, Harlan was one of the first upperclassmen I befriended. I will never forget his tireless energy and tremendous school spirit. CC'83 band members include **Stephen Holtje, Frank Capalbo, Seth Farber, Lawrence Silverman, Jonathan Adams, Gil Aronow, Luke Hill, Mark Licht, Steven Greenfield and Rob Kahn.**

Steven Greenfield reminisces, "I overlapped for two years with Harlan, including his stint as drum major. It was generally thought that Harlan did not know the difference between 3/4 and 4/4 tempo, which made him a Bad Drum Major. On the other hand, his long, lean body was perfect for forming the letters of 'gimme a C!' etc., which, together with a certain natural charisma, made him a Good Drum Major. His legendary goofiness (he once started to scrawl 'BAND SUCKS' instead of 'BAND RULES' on the inside of a Ferris Booth Hall elevator) belied a seriousness of purpose that led to a long and successful career in banking and finance.

"My indelible recollections of Harlan include his blithely pitching LP records out a Plimpton window into the airshaft while ostensibly studying for a Music Humanities final. Also, though, I recall how easily he later engaged as an alum with current band members, listening to their issues in dealing with a recalcitrant administration and dispensing advice and encouragement. Then there was the memorable line uttered by his band friend **Scott Plotkin '81** fol-



In May, Edward Harris '82 hosted a socially distant Columbia graduation ceremony for Grant Carmain '20 in Houston.

lowing a particularly execrable home football 'victory' against Lafayette, 6-0 (two field goals the only offense in the team's lone win of the season), in my sophomore year: 'Hey, Harlan! Wanna get up a team and play winners?'

"My condolences to his family."

Henry Boehm shared, "I remember Harlan walking around the dining room at a Howard Johnson's, introducing himself as Howard Johnson III, and solicitously asking diners if they were enjoying their meal."

[Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

I moderated and organized a Zoom meeting, "COVID at Columbia." Senior Associate Dean for Columbia College Development and Senior Director of Principal Gifts James McMenamin was the featured speaker. Participants included **Tai Park, Barry Rashkover, Jeff Walker, Carl Faller, George Wilson, Nathaniel H. Christian III, Robert Harding Davis** and **Steven Coleman**.

Carl Faller: "I was fortunate to attend the final men's tennis match of 37-year coach Bid Goswami in spring 2019 in the Round of 16 in the NCAA team tournament, which took place in Columbus, Ohio, against Ohio State University in front of a packed home crowd. Columbia admirably competed that day at the highest levels of collegiate tennis. Best wishes to his successor, Howard Endelman '87, and his players. It was a joy to watch and say hello to folks."

"Spring 2019 found me attending my daughter's college graduation from Fordham. I'll miss the opportunities to visit Little Italy in the Bronx. The winter months of 2019 and 2020 provided opportunities to watch my twin sons, Robert and John, play college basketball for Case Western Reserve and Denison, respectively."

"Personal time is spent cycling, playing tennis and supporting the local organization Move to Prosper with its mission of providing single-head-of-household families with living and educational choices in higher-opportunity neighborhoods. I look forward to visiting NYC and the Columbia campus at an opportune time."

John Bonomi: "Sorry to have missed the Zoom meeting on COVID-19. I'm an attorney and partner at Deloitte, with a specialty in labor and employment law. I'm on the Board of Directors for MicroAid,

Jon Ross's charitable organization. That actually came about when we renewed our friendship at the 35th reunion. I played tennis in college and continue to be an avid player. I'm in touch with **Martin Ottomaneli, Rob Dell Angelo** and **Steve Reich LAW'86** — Steve and Rob are lawyers and Martin is a banker. All three have kids, as do I — Liza (17) is at Hamilton College and Celia (13) attends school in NYC.

"My fondest academic memory of Columbia was my first-year Contemporary Civilization class. It was taught by a TA, Constantin Fasolt GSAS'81. The class really opened up new worlds to me, and Constantin was incredibly engaging and encouraged every student in the seminar to stretch the way we thought about the world. He is now a full professor at the University of Chicago."

"[...] I'm wondering if there are ways to get the Columbia community more involved and help the organization grow to build houses for even more families in areas impacted by natural disasters."

Chris Boyle: "I'm a partner in BNS Real Estate, a New York City-based real estate investment firm. Same company for the past 34 years, believe it or not! We own and operate warehouses in Upper Manhattan and the Bronx. I am married with three kids and live on Staten Island. My wife, Grace, is an attorney. The kids: Sarah is a recent graduate of Lehigh, Erin attends Penn and Jack is a senior at Poly Prep in Brooklyn. I've been an avid sailor for 30 years, and due to the recent world events requiring more time to be spent at home, I've revived a long-dormant passion for woodworking, making furniture out of wood scavenged from the forest around my home. So something positive has happened in the face of COVID-19, I guess."

"I stay in contact with **Andy Gershon, Koco Eaton** and **Brent Giddens '84**. I see Andy regularly, attending various Columbia sporting events. Koco is based in St. Petersburg, Fla., so I've seen him annually on my trips to Florida as part of being a travel baseball dad. Brent is in California, but I see him pretty often, as his daughter recently finished at NYU, and he has regular business on the East Coast."

"A Columbia thought/memory: With all the turmoil in the world today, I sure do long for the days

of sitting with several friends in the back of one of Professor Selig's classes, simultaneously doing the *Times's* crossword and listening to the great one opine on the fortunes of Don Quixote ('Don Kwiksit,' as he would say) and Sancho Panza. Oh, for simpler days"

George Bogdan: "As of July 2, I have been with the New York State Department of Financial Services for five years. I am a senior attorney in the Office of General Counsel. We are all still in coronavirus lockdown. Somehow you can keep a regulatory agency functioning on a virtual basis, albeit not perfectly. I do miss my physical office, and many of my co-workers. Our Albany offices will partially reopen first. I hoped my NYC office would start reopening in July."

"I didn't get coronavirus. My sedentary lifestyle has not been great for my cardiovascular condition, but I hope that will improve, and soon I can get to a barber and to outdoor restaurants, shop for things in real physical stores, visit friends again, etc. No family — I basically have lived as a hermit for three months. Sure wish I had a dog. I have only spoken on the phone with one CC alumnus, who is just as stir-crazy as I am, but I hope we will be saner soon."

"My only hobby is chess, and I have been playing online quite a lot. Alas, that has not greatly improved my game."

"Our governor made Juneteenth a holiday for us, and we owe him a thank you. He will propose making it a bank holiday next year. I'd be curious to know if Eric Foner '63, GSAS'69 knows anything about its history."

Andrew Botti: "I have been a practicing attorney for 30 years. I'm with McLane Middleton in its Woburn, Mass., office. I do business and employment litigation. I am also a member of the Board of Directors of Associated Industries of Massachusetts and Lazarus House. My daughter, Madeleine, recently made the National Honor Society, and my son, Paul, is a great mathematician and basketball player. I have been married to Lesa Stramondo, also an attorney, for 20 years. I was recently featured in *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly* because of my hobby of oil painting."

Michael Broder: "My husband, award-winning poet Jason Schneiderman, and I celebrated our 20th meeting anniversary in March

and our 16th wedding anniversary in June. Last year he was promoted to associate professor of English and was granted tenure at Borough of Manhattan Community College. I continue to direct Indolent Books, a nonprofit poetry press, and one of our authors, Dante Micheaux, won the prestigious Four Quartets Prize, awarded jointly by the Poetry Society of America and the T.S. Eliot Foundation, for his book, *Circus*, which we published in chapbook form in 2018.

"Those are some of the highlights of our adventurous life in Bed-Stuy, Brooklyn, where we grow magnolias in the backyard of our turn-of-the-century townhouse and where we also care for three feral cats — a 12-year-old mom and her 10-year-old sons."

Gerry Brandt: "In addition to my freelance work as a C.P.A., I am a pyrotechnician. Unfortunately, Independence Day celebrations were for the most part canceled this year. Last year I spent June and part of July in Saudi Arabia, where we fired 43 displays in 41 days. Since we work at night it's only 90 degrees. Fun stuff."

Stay safe everyone, and I hope to see you at Columbia sporting events in the spring.

1984

Dennis Klainberg
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Columbia is providing Zoom classes this fall, canceling fall sports and — most likely — curtailing or scratching extracurricular activities. It's necessary, but regrettable, as the interaction between upper- and underclassman in these activities creates powerful, life-changing bonds. Being a first-born child, I was (and still am) most grateful for the influence of a number of "older brothers," all Marching Band personnel, who enriched my life at Columbia and whose friendships I still cherish, if only via Facebook communications.

As a freshman, our band conductor was senior Harlan Simon '81, who died last June after a long bout with cancer. Superbly non-musical, lanky, intelligent, confident, droll and very tall, I will always remember seeing him upon entering the band room in Ferris Booth Hall for our first rehearsal. Standing on a podium, towering over a sea of



musicians, just waving his hands with great joy, and truly no idea of a downbeat! Encouraging and enthusiastic about making the band a fun refuge, Harlan was nonetheless an exemplar of hard work and dedication, managing to keep up an internship at Citibank during his senior year, and forging a successful career in finance. It was no doubt because of his great leadership skills and generosity of spirit that he was inducted into Columbia's oldest service-honor society, the Nacoms. Moreover, despite suffering these last few years, he still found the strength as a loyal friend and alumnus to maintain ties with close friends and classmates including **Michael Ackerman** and fellow Nacoms **James Weinstein** and **Roy Pomerantz '83**. He attended reunions, supported the Marching Band Alumni Board, and, in the last year, personally met with the College administration to advocate for reinstating the Marching Band.

Gerry Brandt '83, a freelance C.P.A., is also a pyrotechnician, but things were quiet this year as the pandemic canceled many July 4th celebrations.

Harlan leaves a beautiful and loving family behind, and I take the liberty to wish them our class's sympathy. Harlan Simon, RIP, g(tb)2.

Daniel Armstrong, founder of Find A Tree, wishes everyone the best and is pleased to share his new video, "The Power of a Dream." You can watch it by going online to bit.ly/39DhvPY.

Paul Foglino SEAS'85 is rocking us once again! He writes, "After misspending my youth playing country-rock music with my pal **Tom Meltzer** in the band 5 Chinese Brothers (hear us on Spotify), I have spent my middle age teaching math to the terrific students of The Brearley School in NYC. I've kept in touch with music by writing songs for Ellen Foley and performing as a singer-songwriter (Spotify again). My wife, Libby O'Connor BC'88, and I are pleased and proud that our daughter Francesca SEAS'24 stated at Columbia this fall. I have every expectation that she will prove to be a better engineering student than I was."

And now, another edition of "College Professor COVID Book Writing SMACKDOWN!"

Adam Van Doren, True Blue, writes: "I am happy to report another generation of Van Dorens has graduated from Columbia. My daughter Abbott '20, an English major, and I shared many enjoyable connections to Columbia over the last four years, including visits to The Hungarian Pastry Shop, sunset chats on Low Steps and a wallowing of Penn 44-6 at Homecoming last year. I continue to teach art at Yale, where this past semester I found myself, like so many others, in the throes of Zoom. Overall, my class went OK, but it was quite a challenge to teach painting over the internet. Otherwise, I am using COVID-19 'time off' to work on a book (which will combine my writing and artwork) of historic sites/landmarks of the American Revolution. I look forward to sharing more of its progress in coming issues."

From **Peter Lunenfeld**: "This COVID/Depression/Rebellion spring, my wife, Susan, and I saw both our daughters graduate virtually — Maud with a B.A. from the New School and Kyra '16 with an M.F.A. from CalArts. I taught my entire quarter remotely at UCLA, and was amazed by the passion my students brought to our Zoom discussions. I was also inspired by the BLM protest marches that streamed through our neighborhood. Dave Filosa '82 ran a crew alumni virtual cocktail hour on Fridays, which was the perfect way to wind down the weeks in quarantine. In the realm of the real, I have a new book, *City at the Edge of Forever: Los Angeles Reimagined*. It's the product of more than a decade of work, and three decades of thinking about my adopted city."

Dennis Klainberg, proud father of four SUNY college graduates, congratulates child number 4, Jacob Philip Klainberg, who graduated from SUNY Purchase College with

a degree in screenwriting and playwriting. Post COVID-19, Dennis is dying to drop "leave the gun, take the cannoli" from his repertoire. To paraphrase another classic line in *The Godfather*: "I'm sending (Jacob) to, uh, (Los Angeles) under the protection of, uh, Don(s) **Peter Lunenfeld**, **Adam Belanoff** and **Michael Ackerman** of (L.A.) ... to learn the (entertainment) business."

Wishing you all good health and sanity during these very challenging times.

1985

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I hope you and your families remain safe and well during these challenging times. In moments like this, our 35-plus-years-long connections are more important than ever.

While the pandemic postponed our on-campus reunion, 10 classmates joined a Zoom conference call to catch up. Kudos to **Mark Rothman** for facilitating the session and creating so much dialogue — we went beyond our allotted time. Mark asked the group, aside from providing updates about where they were today, to name the most important thing they learned from Columbia. We were also asked to share what we are most looking forward to and challenges we are facing now.

Several common themes: Many mentioned a medical challenge. Others discussed retirement issues. Almost everyone had clear memories of what they would have done differently in College now (several of us, myself included, said "have more fun"). There was discussion of the recent protest marches and a request for our Orientation facebook (not the Mark Zuckerberg one — the one you received at Orientation).

Barry Ableman lives in New Jersey, north of Princeton (having lived in NYC after college), and ran into **John Phelan** not too long ago. Barry was an urban studies major, has worked for the State of New Jersey for 15 years and has a daughter at Brandeis. Barry said he wished had done more of the reading.

Thomas King has done financial programming in New York, New Jersey and Philadelphia. His daughter is applying for the Class of 2025

this fall. He is in touch with friends from 40 years ago, and remembers the excellence of the faculty — and not necessarily appreciating them enough. His wife has noted that his CC friends were more critical than her college classmates.

Heather Paxton remains in the Kansas City suburbs (having lived in both the Missouri and Kansas cities). She transferred from Swarthmore and graduated early. Heather has written several books on local history, done some charity work, earned a master's and had a brief foray into the law. Kudos again to her for her great work on our class Facebook page (the Mark Zuckerberg one).

Nick Monroe returns to campus for swim team reunions. He lives in Sonoma, Calif., with his wife and three kids. The youngest graduated from high school this past spring and will enter the College either this fall or next. Nick fondly remembered his CC experience, noting how the Core and museum visits opened up perspectives on many things. He is involved with the real estate and hospitality industries.

Paul Getzels has remained in Manhattan his entire life (residing in various locales within one block of another on the Upper West Side). He has been practicing matrimonial law for 30 years and regularly performs with the New York City Bar Chorus (led by his wife, Katherine Schneider BC'86), which has regularly performed for many charitable events at many major NYC venues.

Steve Ohno was the coxswain for the heavyweight crew and clearly remembers rowing on the Harlem River (and trying not to fall in!). Born in Japan, Steve is currently in Los Angeles in the entertainment industry. He is married with two college age-daughters, at UCLA and UC Berkeley. Steve went to film school after the College and has many great memories of his Morningside Heights experience, including bonds with lifelong friends, core values gained and dealing with struggles/challenges. He says he misses the intellectual stimulation from those days and commented that his College education allowed him to listen better, be calmer, hear people and take their voices into consideration. He offered a great coda: "Peace in spirit, love in heart, health in body."

Jeffrey Lautin is a public librarian. He lived in Japan for a year after school, and wished that in addition to having us read Plato and Homer, the College would also have provided practical help with employment and communications with others. He recalled some faculty not being sufficiently realistic or supportive about making a living.

Other nationwide updates: **Laura Glick Meyer** wrote from the West Coast, "What a crazy year it's been so far, with challenges and silver linings. I always like to start with the good. My three boys in college are all home with me now, as is my 83-year-old mom, here in Los Angeles. Thankfully, my kids have adapted well to online learning, online communication with their friends and, together at home, they are their own fraternity! This is bonus mom time I have with them and I will cherish every minute! The pandemic has presented both opportunities and challenges for my e-commerce business, theultimategreenstore.com. Eco-friendly/organic products that are good for one's health and good for the planet, coupled with growth in e-commerce trends, make working exciting. There are times when physically going into the office is necessary. Too many people (not in my offices but others we share common areas with) are not wearing masks. As someone with an autoimmune disease who is at higher risk and desperately wants to keep my business going, I say: Please wear those masks, people! Love thy neighbor, and hope everyone is well!"

David Schellhase has been mostly lawyering, mostly in-house, mostly at tech companies, for 30 years. "I'm the general counsel at Slack Technologies, which went public last year. In addition to my legal responsibilities, I also look after the corporate development and privacy functions and also our charitable arm, Slack for Good. Immediately before Slack I was the chief operating officer of a tiny startup that was bought by Twitter. Before that, plenty of other companies that occasionally hit the news, like Salesforce and Groupon. I love the constant dynamic of changing technology and the pace of the work in and around tech companies. I live in San Francisco with my wife.

"I was in Manhattan the day before the shelter-in-place started, and it certainly did not feel as though what might be the signature event of

our lifetimes was dawning. But history only presents itself in an orderly way in hindsight. I'm pretty sure I learned that by the time I graduated.

"In this day and age, I find myself thinking back to a tuition hike that occurred, I think, in our junior year. Some of us in Laurence Dickey's early modern European intellectual history class asked him what we should do about it. He was an unreconstructed Berkeley radical. Without hesitating he said, 'Blow up the administration building.' I think he was using hyperbole to tell us to get off of our asses and do something. That unprofound but highly motivational lesson has stuck with me.

"I also think back to Stendhal's *The Red and the Black*, which I read in some class or another as a sophomore. Stendhal says something like, 'Maturing is trading the heroic dreams of youth for the comfortable mediocrity of middle age.' I'm just out here, perched on the edge of the West Coast, trying to hang on to those heroic dreams."

Mike Malik wrote from Iowa, and sent me a gorgeous picture of the sunrise: "Things are good for me in the orchard. Life has not changed much due to the virus. It is pretty easy to be naturally socially distant here.

"So, with little concern for my health, I have remained focused on building the orchard — the main infrastructure project this summer was building a deer fence around the orchard to protect the 14,000 trees that I planted. It is 7,842 linear ft. and it took me all summer to pound the posts and hang the wire, and I am now, thankfully, working on hanging the gates, which will be the end of the project.

"The trees are going to have their first harvest this fall and although it will be small, it is exciting to see the apples developing. I'm growing cider apple varieties and will press them into juice and ferment them to make hard cider.

"It has been four years since the trees were planted and I'm hoping that the economy will enable me to market and build a consumer base for the cider next summer, as I'm going to need some revenue soon.

"Outside of working on the business, things are good. I enjoy life on the farm and my two dogs have a great time chasing rabbits and deer out of the orchard while I'm working each day. I stay in touch with

Amy Lloyd (née Waxgiser). She is doing well; her two daughters are grown, with one a teacher in Detroit and the younger in a study abroad program in Edinburgh who had to return early to NYC due to the virus. All are safe."

Stay well and please write!

1986

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We all have pandemic stories. **Jeff Arle** and **Michael Caldwell**, two accomplished doctors in our class, will never forget theirs. I'm heartened that both of them ended their updates with words of hope that we will get through this and come out the other side.

Jeff writes, "Hi fellow pandemic-ians: Just a quick note of adventure and tragedy. I was one of those people stuck on a boat coming from the Antarctic near the end of March — we were coming back through the Drake Passage hoping to avoid a hurricane-like front and 30-ft. waves when first Ushuaia, and then all of Argentina, closed its doors (ports). After an additional week at sea heading north, we luckily (through some backdoor negotiating with embassies and consulates) managed to disembark with police escorts in Montevideo, Uruguay. I flew back through Buenos Aires and Miami to Boston, and then my wife put me in isolation for two more weeks at home as our two boys, who were now home from NYC college, were past their quarantine.

"I've had to go into the hospital for emergent surgeries a few times. We recently suffered the loss of my mother to COVID-19, as it ravaged her nursing home here in Concord, Mass. Be well — eventually, this will end."

I asked Jeff what he was doing professionally and in his free time, and was duly impressed. He says, "I am the vice chair of neurosurgery at one of the Harvard hospitals in Boston (Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center), primarily sub-specialized in the field of neuromodulation, where I recently edited my third book; it came out last January. In some spare time I have done a fair amount of travel over the years, giving talks nationally and internationally and doing some high-altitude mountain-

eering (five of the 'Seven Summits') and lately have been working on a quest to do the peaks in the seven seas with a friend (that's how I ended up in Antarctica). I live in Concord with my wife, Kelly, and kids (17, 19, 21) — Chad '21 is the oldest."

Michael Caldwell's move to Nashville started out placidly but quickly became anything but, as he was faced with the city's biggest public health crisis since the Spanish Flu pandemic. He writes, "As I was learning about the community, I attended a meeting of Metro Arts: Nashville Office of Arts & Culture. I was an art history major at the College and I have always been interested in local arts. I had the pleasure of catching up with former fencing teammate **Will Cheek**, who is a lawyer and commissioner on the Arts Board. Will's weapon was foil and mine was épée.

"After spending the last five years in the biotech industry, I had the opportunity to return to public health when I was selected as the director of health and chief medical officer for the Metropolitan Board of Health of Nashville/Davidson County. Nashville suffered a devastating tornado last March and I began my position helping out in the Emergency Operations Center. This continued with Nashville's first COVID-19 case on March 8. My official start date was March 9, and one of my first acts was to work with the mayor and our board of health to essentially shut down the city.

"I am thinking of Columbia and all of our classmates and their families and wishing them health and safety. My condolences to all who have lost someone to this illness. This is one of the most challenging times of our lives. I look forward, with all of you, to the day when we can all reflect on this difficult chapter in our history. That time will come. We will eventually have a vaccine and we will be able to move on."

1987

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In these very weird times, I posted on Facebook during the summer looking for encouraging news.

Deena Ackerman answered the call. Not only did she send me a link



to a wonderful article in *The Washington Post* about a man who asked strangers to share positive stories (read it at wapo.st/3icu5J1), but it also turns out that Deena participated in his project! She shared with this person that during quarantine, she successfully grew a tomato! Cool in its own right (says the woman in the apartment with no garden) but even cooler that it became part of this compilation!

Thank you, Deena!

So I put to all of you a challenge: Please send me messages with one new thing that YOU have done during quarantine. I will feature them all in future columns.

I also received a note from **Garth Stein** SOA'90: "My eldest, Caleb (24), graduated from Berklee College of Music last year to have his work as a classical music recording engineer evaporate due to the virus. My second son, Eamon (21), was studying film at FAMU in Prague and was sent home because of the virus. And my youngest son, Dashiell (13), has watched his career in the Seattle Sounders FC development program fizzle due to — you guessed it! — the virus. But the good news is, the first book of my graphic novel series, *The Cloven*, was published on July 28 (theclovenproject.com). So there's still some fun to be had out there."

1988

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I write this during the summer quarantine, still adjusting to days spent primarily in the house, during which time I heard that Professor Henry Graff GSAS'49 passed away from complications due to COVID-19. Graff, who was 98, taught in Columbia's history department for 45 years and established himself as one of its legends before retiring three years after our graduation. One of my lasting memories of senior year was taking his spring seminar on the U.S. presidency and staying after class with him each week to discuss that year's presidential election as the campaign unfolded. For years afterward, I would watch him take part in ABC's coverage of presidential inaugurations, where his insights offered historical context and a sense of the moment's

timelessness. The presidency is "the litmus paper for testing the nation's aims and character," as he was quoted in his *New York Times* obituary. We're now eight election cycles since graduation, still applying that litmus test. [Editor's note: See "Around the Quads"/"In Memoriam," Summer 2020.]

Grandparent alert: **Mark Timoney** became only the second member of our class (whom I'm aware of) to experience this generational shift in his personal life, thanks to his daughter giving birth this year. "Our first grandchild was born on January 22," he writes. "His name is Mateo Benjamin. He came bringing joy. Otherwise all is well — living and working, working, working from home, home, home."

Mark, Philip "Shraga" Levy — are there any others in our class who have joined, or are about to join, this exclusive grandparent club? Please let me know.

Closer to my own end of the parenting spectrum, the only classmate of ours (again, whom I'm aware of) with a child younger than my two: **Salvatore Zoida**. "I attended Georgetown Law," he writes. "I bounced around among law firms and startups, first in Los Angeles and then in San Francisco. Along the way, I wrote news scripts at NBC Bay Area News and got a number of my short stories published. I have a literary agent who has my debut novel at Macmillan, HarperCollins, Simon & Schuster and Penguin Random House."

"Five years ago, I became a father," Salvatore continues. "My daughter is a precocious child who has voiced her frustration with me countless more times than I have with her. She is enamored of the idea of attending Columbia in fall 2033."

Perfect. If my daughter Esther is a junior when your daughter arrives on campus, she can show her around and recommend which Lit Hum instructor to choose.

My freshman- and sophomore-year suitemate **Patrick Cable** died of natural causes at 53 this spring. Many of you might not remember Patrick; he transferred to another school after sophomore year, but we stayed in touch for a few years past graduation. He went on to a successful and varied career as a museum curator, most recently as chief curator at the Taubman Museum of Art

in Roanoke, Va. Reading the various memorials to Patrick online, I was struck by how literate, accomplished and universally liked he was. "Those who knew him best will remember him for the standard of excellence he brought to his work, his impressive and wide-ranging intellect, his exceptionally well-developed sense of humor, and his unflagging kindness and acceptance of everyone who came his way," according to a tribute published in the *Citizen Times* of his native Asheville, N.C. Patrick lived a short, peripatetic life, in which he changed cities and jobs often, but he seemed to leave friends, admirers and a record of achievement wherever he went. He wasn't here long, but he touched the lives of others.

1989

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I hope my notes this season find everyone well and safe. I feel very fortunate, and relieved, that those I know personally have recovered from COVID-19 to date.

I connected with **Duchesne Drew**, who was the news editor at the *Spectator*, and he has gone on to a successful career media. Duchesne attended graduate school at Northwestern and then worked for several years at the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*. In May, he took the helm as president of Minnesota Public Radio during a turbulent time — both the pandemic and the murder of George Floyd, just miles from where Duchesne lives, had a huge impact on his work and life, but Duchesne says, "I'm built for this and as a long-standing member of the Minneapolis-Saint Paul community I feel compelled to be part of the solution to some of our community's challenges." Duchesne is hopeful and optimistic and says that he "is very glad to be in my new role."

Duchesne is married to Angela Davis, an Emmy-winning reporter and host of *MPR News*; together they have two children. Duchesne speaks of his "deep affection for Columbia, both the education and the friendships." He is still connected to *Spectator* as a member of the Board of Trustees, and he recently Zoomed for a digital happy

hour with **Umberto Serrano, Brian Domitrovic** and **Jeff Berg**.

Through Duchesne, I caught up with Jeff, who by day directs client services for CMIT Solutions of Wall Street and Grand Central (an IT-managed service provider) in the NYC area, and by night occasionally moonlights as a stand-up comedian. His comedy touches on themes of the sandwich generation (yes, that's us). You can find his set on YouTube: youtu.be/-TwIo7FHtyM.

Jeff writes, "Yes, astoundingly, after getting a B.A. in English and an M.F.A. in fiction writing, I've spent my entire career in IT. Fortunately, my job allows me to work from home, with, in normal times, occasional jaunts into the city. I live in the northwest corner of Connecticut with my wife, Susie, and our dogs, Hank and Zoe, and — since the beginning of the pandemic — two of my three kids, Sarah (25) and Ben (20). Our son Alex (24) lives in Bushwick and has remained hunkered down there."

Of his venture into stand-up comedy, Jeff writes, "It was mostly in reaction to being a member of the 'sandwich' generation, where we still have kids in college, but our parents are slowly dying. I have not been able to pursue it since the fall due to our current worldwide insanity. Instead, I am spending a great deal of time trying to actually get fit — exercising every day, hiking, running, lifting weights, swimming. In addition to getting my physical house in order, I am also trying to reinvigorate my mind. That is to say, I am thinking about writing. I guess you can't move forward on all fronts simultaneously."

Many of our classmates have been involved with efforts on behalf of pandemic relief. **Danielle Maged** BUS'97 is chief growth officer for Global Citizen, whose *One World: Together at Home*, a global broadcast to support frontline health care workers and the WHO, aired earlier this year. My family has watched the artistic and amazing performances many times — you can still send support and see it at globalcitizen.org.

As COVID-19 raged in Massachusetts earlier this year, **David Odo**, director of academic and public programs at the Harvard Art Museums, led brief breaks for small groups of doctors from local hospitals, examining different works from the museums' collection to

help doctors briefly disengage from the pressures and stresses of their work during the pandemic.

John MacPhee is the CEO of The JED Foundation, a nonprofit that protects the emotional health for our nation's teens and young adults. The foundation offers many resources for today's youth, including COVID-19 resource guides.

Please write to tell me how you are.

1990

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It's not what we were expecting, it's not what we're used to, but you know what? It was fun. Our official 30th reunion hasn't happened yet, but the Reunion Committee organized a June 5 Zoomunion and TED-style talks on June 6 to hear from various alumni, including three classmates — **Julie Fishman**, **Justin Abelow** LAW'95 and **Gina Fattore**. CC'90 had the largest representation by far among the speakers, I'm proud to say. Julie discussed her career in the world of LGBTQ rights, Justin spoke about Central Park and Gina talked about how she became a writer and Hollywood showrunner.

Well done, folks!

Friday night's affair was BYO-refreshments, and **Adel Aslani-Far** was enjoying his Scotch. The organizers put the 70 of us into breakout rooms by freshman dorm or floors. Carman 7/8 won the trophy for the biggest breakout room, with 14 people. Wahoo! What follows are the notes I so diligently took from those very fun 30 minutes, as well as what I learned from others when the group reunited and from an unofficial follow-up Zoom on Sunday a handful of us joined.

Gwen Knitweis sort of made it to her first reunion! She has been in California (now in Sacramento) since 1991, is a hydropower engineer and is still playing the saxophone. Had reunion happened at Columbia, she would have been there. **Peter Spett** LAW'93 is practicing law in Boca Raton, Fla., having moved there 10 years ago from Manhattan. He missed our 25th reunion because of a trial and was happy to catch up this year. **Carol Shahmoon** LAW'92 lives on Long Island, has her own law

firm and is hoping her youngest has a good start to her first year at Penn. Carol mentioned running into **John Vincenti** at the Faux Columbia Club in Manhattan, aka the Penn Club. It seems that many Columbia alumni hang out there. John commutes from northern New Jersey to the city, where he practices law with his brother. They also practiced with their father, Vito '54, LAW'56, until his passing on July 21, 2020. John and his wife Robyn's two sons are both high schoolers, which kind of blows his mind. **Isaac-Daniel Astrachan** feels the same way every time he remembers that his son is a high school senior.

Mark Ambrosino splits his time among Long Island, Nashville, Los Angeles and London. He started an independent record label in 2006, tours (if you recall, he spent half of his Columbia years working as a drummer) and says nothing would be possible without his beloved wife, Rozan. **Liz Pascal** lives in Buffalo and is a tax lawyer. She has two daughters, one of whom graduated in May from Oberlin. **Yong Liu** joined the group from Charlotte, home for the last 10 years, after 20 years in Los Angeles. **Sherry Pancer Wolf** has worked in finance all these years and has lived in Boston for the past 25 with her husband, Doug Wolf '88. Their youngest is a first-year at Columbia.

Radhi Majmudar lives on Staten Island with his husband, **Ifran Aziz**. Their children are both at Columbia — one a freshman, the other a junior. **Judy Shampianier** LAW'93 works for a judge in Westchester County, N.Y., has a son in 11th grade and daughter who is a first-year at ... wait for it ... Columbia! **Melissa Landau Steinman**'s younger son is a first-year student at Wesleyan and her older son graduated from Brown in May and just started a Ph.D. program at ... Columbia!

Jon Edwards Zoomed in from London. He works in the Beijing office of the London Stock Exchange, and three years ago his wife and two children (now 14 and 16) returned to London. Jon went to visit them in January and got "stuck" there because of the pandemic. **Elyn Grossman Levine** does independent consulting and has lived in Philadelphia for the past three years. As of June, she was planning to teach a communications class

to undergrads at Penn's Wharton School this fall.

Elyn, let us know what came of that!

Her youngest began high school this fall.

Dan Max hasn't left the Washington, D.C., area, but he did leave the Morrison & Foerster law firm in late 2019 and joined King and Spalding's M&A and finance practice group. **Judy Bernstein** has gone back to school to enroll in a social work program at SUNY Stony Brook. She has two seniors (one at Harvard, the other in high school) and an eighth-grader. **Julie Weber** (née Schwartz) has been in Needham, Mass., since summer 2019 after nine years in the D.C. area. She left her job as ombudsman at Montgomery College in Rockville, Md., to take that position at Brown. In her previous life, Julie was an employment lawyer. Her three children attend Tufts, Grinnell and high school.

Of course, we also talked about friends who couldn't make the Zoom. **Adam Ginsburg** SEAS'90 and Stephanie GS'90's youngest child started at University of Florida this fall. That makes three Gators (middle

at Wharton, and jobs at PricewaterhouseCoopers, Microsoft and Merus Capital (the Bay-area VC company he co-founded).

"The numerous moving tributes to him are a testament to the lives he touched and the many who loved him. He made friends so effortlessly — always charming and charismatic, he was the life of the party who would do anything to get a laugh, and had an infectious passion for life and adventure. Whenever you had a dinner, activity, or trip with Peter, you were in for a real ride; it would always turn into a memorable experience. Over the past 34 years, our very close group of Columbia friends have had so many memorable experiences with Peter: trips to Europe and Napa, skiing, concerts and many hours-long dinners that would end in late-night karaoke in Koreatown and 5 a.m. Korean food. Even during the coronavirus pandemic, he focused on keeping us connected and set up weekly Zoom calls so we could all stay in touch while quarantining. Through it all, he was the instigator and the glue that held us together; everything we did was better, shinier and more beautiful because of him.

Gwen Knitweis '90 has been in Sacramento since 1991, is a hydropower engineer and is still playing the saxophone.

child is a junior and oldest graduated) and no Lions among the kids. **Hilary Nover Klein** is a psychologist in the D.C. area and has been seeing a lot of COVID-19-related anxiety and stress in her clients.

I learned some bad news in July: **Peter Hsing** SEAS'90 died. **Gloria Pak** LAW'95 submitted this reflection: "The Columbia community lost one of its best this summer. On July 17, 2020, Peter passed away unexpectedly from cardiac arrest, leaving behind his beloved children, Brandon and Nicole; his parents, Fred and Fei Hsing; his brother, Andy Hsing; and a large community of friends and family around the world. We are all grieving his loss immensely. Peter had so many tight-knit groups of friends, from high school at Loomis Chaffee, college at Columbia, business school

"Beyond all of that, Peter was the most generous, loving and loyal person. He was an active alum in the SEAS Entrepreneurship Program and mentored many. He would go out of his way to help anyone who needed it and would drop everything to be with you when you called day or night. He was kind and gentle, deeply sensitive to others and he loved with his whole heart. He was so incredibly proud of his kids and family and loved them beyond measure. We all feel his loss profoundly and will miss him each and every day. Rest in peace, our beloved friend and brother. (Note: A fellowship at Columbia in Peter's honor is being established, in case people are interested in contributing. Details will be sent to the Columbia community.)"

On that sobering note, I wish everyone good health and hope we



can reunite as a large group soon. In the meantime, check out the 195 classmates who made a page in the online Class Book (columbia.brightcrowd.com/1990). If you didn't, there's still time to make one. It's really, really easy. Also, please send me any updates.

1991

Columbia College Today
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Joel Rubenstein writes: "As planned, once our kids went off to college (UMass and Temple), we left the United States and moved back to Europe. We live in Malmö, Sweden, just across the bridge from Copenhagen, where I am the president of a Nordic-only OTC pharma company, Niconovum AB. If anyone finds themselves in Copenhagen or southern Sweden, please let me know."

From John Evans: "My friend Michael Gitman was interviewed by *NBC News* on April 6, regarding the surge in COVID-19 cases on Long Island. Michael was speaking in his role as medical director of North Shore Medical Center in Manhasset, N.Y. North Shore is part of the Northwell health care system, New York's largest. Specifically, Michael was talking about his facility's preparedness. They had set up three large blue and white tunnel-shaped tents in a distant corner of the facility's parking lot, which had about 60 beds ready and waiting for COVID-19 patients. The facility had also converted an auditorium, conference room and every other available space in the hospital to prepare for the influx of up to 500 COVID-19 patients. At the time of the interview, Long Island's two counties, Nassau and Suffolk, which have about three million residents combined, had more than 29,000 COVID-19 cases, according to Gov. Andrew Cuomo, and were continuing to spike at that time. The online article ended with Michael saying, 'I think the way we're going to be successful is keep our staff healthy, keeping our staff safe and keeping them focused on our patients. We are trying to save our community.'

"I hope all of our fellow Columbians, like Michael, who are on the frontline or are essential workers in any capacity, are surviving and

staying safe, and I thank them all for their service."

CCT wishes good health and safety to the members of the Class of 1991! Please send us a note with your news.

1992

Olivier Knox
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Dear classmates, as I write this in mid-July, the country is being tested as never before in our lifetimes.

And at least three of our peers have been playing special roles. Dr. Ashish Jha directs Harvard's Global Health Institute and teaches global health up at that same "School up in Boston." I've been lucky to get him on my radio show to take listener questions on science and health — a challenge given our rapidly changing understanding of SARS-CoV-2. I didn't know Ashish well at Columbia, but as a guest he's been able to explain science so well that even *I* understand it, and my worst grade at Columbia was a "C" in "Dinosaurs and the History of Life."

Ashish writes, "By early March, our entire team was focused solely on the pandemic, both here in the United States and globally. We have provided essential data to the White House COVID-19 task force, to Congress and to governors — data such as how much testing America needs, when our hospitals might get overwhelmed or how nursing homes are faring."

"On a personal note, this has been physically the hardest months of my life. Early on, as I started doing media hits and worked long hours, my wife and I agreed that I would work from my office in Cambridge. Each morning, I would leave the house around 5 a.m., drive the empty roads from Newton to Harvard Square. I would spend the day in the office alone, usually until about 11 p.m. Weeks went by and I don't think I saw a single person outside of my family. I would stare out the window occasionally and see no one in Harvard Square," he says.

But while he may not have seen anyone, we certainly have seen him! "Since March 1, I have averaged about 15 media interviews per day, seven days a week," Ashish calculates. "My days were and are a mix of media calls and appearances, data

analyses, speaking to policymakers, reading new science and writing."

By late April, concerned about burning out, he started to take Saturdays off, reconnecting with his family, pulling back a bit and preparing to transition to a new job at the Brown University School of Public Health. Ashish says that he remains "strangely optimistic" despite the long road ahead.

"When this pandemic starts to draw to a close, I plan to take an extraordinary amount of time off. And sleep. And pick up a hobby," he adds. "I'm looking for ideas."

[Editor's note: See CCT Online's exclusive Q&A, "Pandemic Expert Dr. Ashish K. Jha '92: 'We Will Get Through This.'": college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/spring20/article/pandemic-expert-dr-ashish-k-jha-92.]

When I started to put this column together, I asked Eric Garcetti SIPA'93 to share his unique perspective as mayor of Los Angeles.

"Greetings from L.A. Hope this finds everyone safe and healthy during the toughest collective year of our lives," Eric writes.

"This year started as one of great hope and promise — my last social weekend before COVID-19 hit was going to Palm Springs to celebrate the 50th (!) birthday of Karl Cole-Frieman LAW'97 with many classmates, including Wanda Cole-Frieman BC'94; Imara Jones '94; George Kolombatovich '93, LAW'98; Dae Levine BC'92; Jason Griffith; and Amy Schrader BC'92 at the former home of Frank Sinatra," Eric reports. "Then the world changed and within weeks we were slammed by a triple challenge of the biggest collective health threat, the deepest economic downturn and the most urgent call for racial justice in our lifetimes."

Eric, who has a bit less than two and a half years left in his second and final term as L.A. mayor, sees "our country and my city at a crossroads, struggling to determine whether we will just 'get through this' or take this year as a deep moment to fundamentally reimagine and co-create a more just, healthier and fairer future for everyone."

Eric has been speaking "almost nightly" to Los Angeles, and "building short-term and long-reaching ways to alleviate poverty in my city and our country for everyone, including immigrants who have been left

behind, and to take bold steps on racial justice, from embracing universal basic income (a dream of Martin Luther King Jr.) to reinvesting in Black communities with funds usually assigned to police departments."

Eric has also been serving as one of the two first national co-chairs of former Vice President Joe Biden's presidential campaign, crafting policies relating to the Latino community, the climate crisis and economic recovery, and leading Biden's search for a running mate, "which will be announced by the time these notes are published," he notes. Eric predicts the election will anoint "the first woman Vice President in the history of our republic."

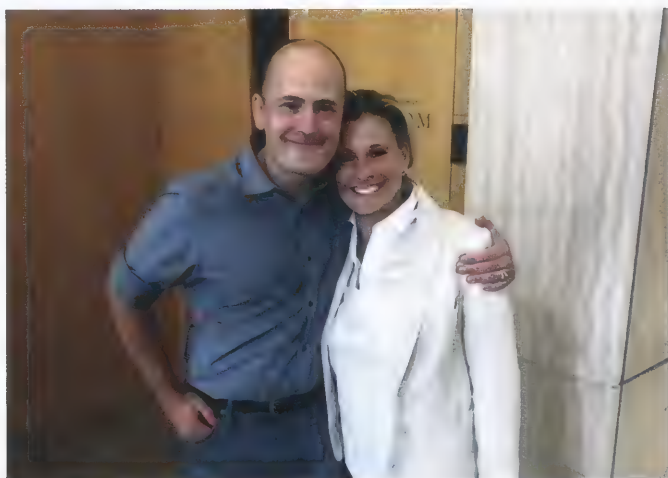
Eric writes that our time at Columbia has helped shape this moment, "from political science memories from Charles Hamilton, Carlton Long '84 and Judith Russell GSAS'92 to activism alongside classmates in Harlem and on campus."

"Through all of this, I am blessed with an incredible wife, Amy, and our exceptional and resilient daughter, Maya (8), who continue to be my support through these difficult days. And a community of friends, classmates and colleagues, who give me strength every day," Eric says.

My friend and East Campus suitemate Peter Hatch serves as New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio's COVID-19 Public-Private Partnership Czar after being chief of staff to the deputy mayor for health and human services and senior advisor to the mayor on street homelessness. In his new role, Peter oversees and coordinates work with private sector and philanthropic partners to aid the city's response to the pandemic.

In practice, Peter writes, this means efforts to "procure, manufacture and raise donations of critical PPE; feed health care and other essential workers; support remote learning for public school students and virtual summer employment for NYC youth; and provide cash assistance to undocumented New Yorkers who can't access federal, state or other city financial relief programs."

Did I mention that Peter got COVID-19? Because Peter got COVID-19. "Quarantined for seven days (the official guidance for essential workers at the time) and only saw my wife, Hilary Hatch, and our girls via FaceTime, which was the



Paul Bollyky '94 and Kathryn Hudacek '94 caught up and reminisced.



Paul Bollyky '94 met up with Mason Kirby '94 to surf.

worst of it, as I was lucky to have only a mild case," he says.

As ever, this column only works when you write in. Please share any and all personal and professional news.

1993

Betsy Gomperz
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Class Notes for CC'93 is taking a hiatus this issue and will be back in the Winter 2020–21 issue; until then, stay healthy and be well. Please take a moment to send me a note. Classmates want to hear from you!

1994

Leyla Kokmen
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Hello, everyone! I pride myself on hitting deadlines, so it truly pains me to have flat-out missed a couple of columns, resulting in a lengthy delay in sharing some of your updates. My apologies! I'm afraid the coronavirus has thrown life into chaos this year, and with the e-learning (not great), the working from home (at a card table in the bedroom) and the general uncertainty (read: impending doom), well, Class Notes paid the price. I'm sure many of you have been feeling the same stress. I hope you and yours have been staying safe and well during these crazy times.

Brian Greenspan sent in a terrific note with news of a major

career change: After 26 years working in advertising and marketing as a graphic designer, Brian has moved back to New Jersey from San Francisco, his home of 22 years, to go to school for nursing. "I figured it was time to polish up the ol' soul after foisting loans and credit cards on people for Wells Fargo for the last 16 years," Brian writes. "It's a two-year program plus pre-reqs. If I like it, I'll continue on to be a nurse practitioner, maybe specializing in pediatrics." Thus far, Brian's completed two semesters of pre-reqs and is hoping to apply to a nursing program this fall.

Brian also shared some fun updates from classmates: "Before leaving SF, I was in Alamo Square with my French bulldog, Biggie. A couple showed up with a little Frenchie, so Biggie went over to explore. I followed him because he can be obnoxious. I was talking to one of the doggy's dads, but kept looking at the other as I did. Finally I asked him, 'Did you go to Columbia?' His reply: 'Yes, Brian. How are you?' It was **Karl Cluck**, my dorm neighbor senior year. He had moved back to the United States from Asia after 14 years and had been in SF for one year."

Shortly after he returned to the East Coast, Brian caught up with **Anny Shin** while she was in NYC, and then he crashed her daughter Ida's bat mitzvah in January in Washington, D.C. Brian reports it was a blast; he ran into **Kevin Dwarka** there.

Brian also writes that he is in frequent contact with **Phyllis**

Fletcher, who "is happily married with an amazing son, and living in Seattle."

In other news, **Paul Bollyky** sent in a lovely note while sheltering in place this spring: "All is well here. I'm an infectious disease physician and researcher at Stanford. There is a lot going on with COVID-19, of course, including efforts around sample biobanking and clinical research studies. However, if there is a silver lining to the pandemic, it's been in reconnecting with lots of friends, including from Columbia days. It seems like everyone is reaching out and getting back in touch."

Paul got together with both **Kathryn Hudacek** and **Mason Kirby** over the past year.

That's it for this time. Drop a line when you can. Note my new email address, at the top of this column. In the meantime, be well.

1995

Janet Lorin
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I hope this finds everyone and their families safe and healthy.

Thanks to **Lynette Pineda** for her update. She works at Securian Asset Management, where she's managed the Northeast Commercial Mortgage origination platform for more than two years. She lives in Westport, Conn., with her three kids and three dogs.

Please keep the news coming, and if you've never written in, this is a good time to drop me a note.

1996

Ana S. Salper
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Dear classmates, as I look back at my last Class Notes column, I cringe at how naïve I was in thinking that we would be on the other side of this pandemic by the fall. These have been long, challenging months, and we have to continue to persevere in the coming months as well, adjusting our lives as best as possible to get through this pandemic. I did not receive any notes to share for this issue. I must say, though, in light of the current state of the world, and in support of the continuing battle for civil rights and racial justice, I do not think that this is an appropriate moment to focus on each of us as individuals. Instead, I call for us to come together as a community and to work as hard as we can in our respective lives to show our fellow citizens respect, empathy and understanding. And please — stay safe.

"We can disagree and still love each other unless your disagreement is rooted in my oppression and denial of my humanity and right to exist."

— James Baldwin

1997

Kerensa Harrell
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Dear classmates, I hope that you had a pleasant summer and that you all have been staying in good



health throughout this frightening pandemic. I recall my great-grandmother Thelma, who was born in 1907 and lived until 1999, telling me all about how she had lived through the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic as a pre-teen in rural Alabama. Our current pandemic seems quite reminiscent of that one, though I daresay we should count ourselves luckier that so many laboratories around the world are working tirelessly to invent and mass-produce a vaccine for us as quickly as possible.

In February, **David Scharff** joined with several other Alumni Representative Committee volunteers in Los Angeles, where they interviewed candidates for admission to the College. ARC's "Super Saturday" events provide alumni with the opportunity to interview multiple candidates in a single day. David shared a photo of himself with Nina Hong '93, Justin Chow SEAS'11 and Erik Feig '92 that was taken at Erik's company Picturestart.

On the evening of March 24, I had just put my daughter to bed and sat down to watch *The Rachel Maddow Show* when suddenly I did a double-take at the name of the doctor who was being interviewed. It was **Rebekah Gee** PH'98, talking about the challenges that New Orleans is facing amidst the pandemic and how there needs to be a national focus on that city due to its having the highest growth rate right now in the world. Rebekah is the CEO of Health Care Services for Louisiana State University and has been helping out with LSU's

COVID-19 response, as well as helping with the COVID-19 response for the state of Louisiana and the city of New Orleans.

As for me, **Kerensa Harrell**, while I wrap up this column and am constantly worried about the pandemic, it is mid-July and I am carefully preparing for the final battle of a two-year-long war in which there have already been many other fierce battles leading up to this final one, which is to take place in just a matter of days from now. There is so much at stake, the most important of which is my precious 3-year-old child. Recently I took a break from my battle preparations, in order to give my mind a brief respite, and sat down on my Indonesian mamasan chair (a double papasan chair) to watch the entire series of the *Twilight* movie saga, none of which I had seen before this year even though it came out a decade ago. I completely resonated with the motto of the final film of the saga, which was "gather the witnesses." And when I heard the saga's haunting waltz song, "A Thousand Years," it suddenly brought back bittersweet memories of my former life in New York City, when I had my choreography business and was coaching couples on how to perform their dance to their selected wedding song. Several couples had selected that song. One day I would really love to show my daughter around New York City and point out all the places I used to frequent during the 20 years I lived there — the dance rehearsal studios, the tea parlors, the

theaters, the restaurants, Central Park, the Tilden mansion and the grand ballrooms of historic hotels like the Waldorf and The Plaza, where all the society balls took place.

I will end with a few lines from that haunting waltz. Nowadays when I hear it and contemplate its lyrics, I actually think of the love I have for my child, and how long I had to wait for her sweet arrival in my life, which sure felt like a thousand years.

*"I have died every day, waiting for you
"Darling, don't be afraid, I have loved
you for a thousand years
"I'll love you for a thousand more ...
"... I will not let anything, take away
"What's standing in front of me
"Every breath, every hour has come
to this."*

Blessings to all, and please be safe. I look forward to receiving updates from everyone.

In lumine Tuo videbimus lumen.

1998

Sandie Angulo Chen
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Hello Class of '98. At the time of writing this column, we are in month five of pandemic living. Some of you have written us with updates about what you're missing and others with what you're still doing. I hope that whatever your situation, you're healthy, safe, and with family and loved ones.

First, a big congratulations to **Adina Berrios Brooks**, who was elected to the New Rochelle Board of Education in New Rochelle, N.Y., where she lives with her husband, Ross, and their daughters, Nola and Clara. She was sworn in on July 7.

Next, two sets of congratulations to **Teresa López-Castro**, who wrote in our Class of 1998 Facebook group that she had a second daughter, Alma Ines Gispert-López, in April 2019.

Teresa, who's an assistant professor at City College of New York's Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership, also recently was funded by the National Institutes of Health to look at how PTSD impacts treatment for opioid use disorder. According to the press release: "At the City College of

New York, a \$200,000 National Institutes of Health grant to psychologist Teresa López-Castro will enable her to delve into an aspect of the epidemic — barriers to treatment engagement for individuals with opioid use disorder who have post-traumatic stress disorder. Her project is entitled: 'Impact of PTSD and trauma re-exposure on buprenorphine maintenance treatment in syringe exchange programs.'"

Be well and stay safe!

1999

Adrienne Carter
Jenna Johnson
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jennajohnson@gmail.com

No news this time, but best wishes for the continued health and safety of CC'99 and your loved ones. Let's stay connected! Send a note to either of our email addresses.

2000

Prisca Bae
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Classmates: While it's sad we could not see each other for reunion, I am looking forward to seeing you all next year (fingers crossed) if we can get past the pandemic. Hope you have all been healthy and as happy as can be in our new world of sheltering in place, wearing face masks and marching for racial justice. Please send me your quarantine stories! And thanks so much to those who sent in notes!

Mike Showalter reports, "I'm the same — I've had the same office and the same job for almost a decade (truly bizarre). **Jen Park**, on the other hand, has had a pretty big year. While she's been a visiting professor at Illinois Institute of Technology, she's also joined a great architecture firm in Chicago, Brininstool + Lynch, as a partner. Shortly after she joined that firm, it was named by AIA Chicago as firm of the year and Jen was presented by AIA Chicago with the 2019 Dublin Family Young Architect Award for being the best young architect in Chicago. (I think she's excited about being both best and young.)"



In February, Nina Hong '93, Justin Chow SEAS'11, David Scharff '97 and Erik Feig '92 joined with several other Alumni Representative Committee volunteers in Los Angeles to interview high school candidates for Columbia.

Afiya Jordan LAW'05 is VP and assistant general counsel in the Office of the Secretary at JPMorgan Chase, where she is responsible for corporate governance, transactions and signing authority for subsidiary entities. She is also a leader with The Leadership Council on Legal Diversity, Black Organization for the Leadership Development, Women on the Move and the Pro Bono Committee.

Karen Graves-Scheffold earned a Psy.D. from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 2009. She is a psychologist for the State of New York, where she runs a clinic for people with developmental disabilities. She lives in upstate New York with her husband and two children.

Jasmine Dreame Wagner has been busy! She recently released a record, *Switchblade Moon* (jasminedreamewagner.bandcamp.com), premiered the record and video at For the Rabbits and was profiled in *BOMB Magazine* (bit.ly/2Y3J2G3). You can watch the video here (Jon Schwarz, who is married to **Mira Lew**, is the DP): bit.ly/2Y3JLaf.

Meanwhile, Jasmine's short film, *Five Elizabeths*, is an official selection of the New Faces New Voices film festival in New York City this fall, most likely moving online for streaming: bit.ly/2XPqUiZ.

Abigail Krauser Shrier shares, "My book is now available: *Irreversible Damage: The Transgender Craze Seducing Our Daughters*. It explores the possibility that trans-identification has become one more peer contagion among teenage girls."

Vernon Gibbs II writes, "I've been a stay-at-home dad for the last

five years. My wife is a physician and we have three kids — a 7-year-old boy and 5-year-old boy/girl twins. I recently wrote an article that was published in *The Washington Post* about my struggles as a Black father and still trying to find happiness and hope in this sometimes dark and tumultuous world. It is my second piece for them; my first was in 2018 when I wrote about miscarriages from my perspective as a father."

You can check out the first article at wapo.st/2FbMGqE and the second at wapo.st/33NcHXw.

Thanks, everyone! Send me updates!

2001

Jonathan Gordin
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Hi all, it's such a strange time right now. I continue to write this column from my house in Los Angeles, under quarantine, and you, like me, might be looking for as much human interaction as you can get. Sure, there are all those Zoom calls for my job, but I miss real social interactions with friends so much. It makes me truly wistful for my Columbia experience. The idea that incoming first-years will not get to experience NSOP and COBOP/COOP and make all those memories that colored my first few weeks at school makes me sad, but also grateful for all of you and our shared experiences.

Ashish Agarwal "lives in Mumbai, India, and is married to Kay Kapoor BUS'05. We have two boys, 7 and 3. I run businesses in transportation and real estate. Would love to connect with classmates living in or visiting India!"

Jasper Cooper recently relocated to Utah with his family. He continues to work for Moody's (remotely) and is excited to start a new chapter of his life. Jasper and his wife, Josie, welcomed identical twin boys Joshua Reynolds Cooper (5 lbs., 0 oz.) and Holden Henry Cooper (4 lbs., 11 oz.) on July 23.

Sara Batterton shares an exciting small-world story: "As is the case with everyone right now, our world is very small and proximate. We live in the Capitol Hill neighborhood of Washington, D.C., about a mile from the Capitol and the Supreme Court. We currently take lots of

intimate walks in and around our home due to social distancing.

"During the past two months, my daughter Sadie (4), who is very social, has made friends with a group of nuns who live in a convent two blocks from our home. We didn't know them pre-pandemic but they've been friendly to her every time we walk by. She's made friends in particular with Sister Maria Theotokus. We chat with this sister a few times a week as we stroll by. Recently we had a particularly long conversation with her and I happened to mention I was from Baltimore, and in a separate part of the conversation that I went to a girls' school there for 12 years while growing up. Hearing these two comments, she said, 'Did you go to Bryn Mawr?' When I replied yes with a very surprised look on my face, she said 'Do you know the Miola sisters? I studied at Columbia University with them and they are part of my order.' I was even more shocked at this revelation because I immediately realized that this sister, to whom we had been speaking for months behind masks and fences was actually a classmate of ours. Her birth name is **Elinor Adams** and she is very good friends with **Christine Miola**, also a nun. Chrissy and I attended high school together in Baltimore. Both Elinor and Chrissy entered the order after graduating from Columbia. I learned from my conversation with Sister Maria Theotokus (Elinor) that Sister Maria del Fiat (Chrissy) lived in the convent around the corner from my home until a year and a half ago. She now lives in Italy. Sister Maria Theotokus is pursuing a Ph.D."

Stories like the one Sara shared are so exciting and help showcase how Columbians are truly everywhere (this particular column places them in Utah, India and around the corner from our homes, wherever you may be). I hope everyone stays well and safe, and keeps in touch.

2002

Sonia Dandona Hirdaramani
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Class Notes for CC'02 is taking a hiatus for this issue and will be back in the Winter 2020–21 issue; until then, stay healthy and be well. Please take a moment to send me a note. Classmates want to hear from you!

2003

Michael Novielli
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I hope that you are staying healthy and safe during these difficult times. Despite the challenges that we are facing throughout the world, our classmates continue to do interesting and amazing things, and I'm happy to share a few of those with you. As always, we would love to hear from you even if there isn't anything major to share in terms of your careers or families. Feel free to drop me a line with any book or Netflix recommendations or to update us on any new hobbies you've picked up while spending more time at home.

On that note, **Nadege Fleurimond** used the quarantine as an inspiration for her latest book, *Taste of Solitude: A Culinary Journal Book*, which has more than 25 recipes and can be purchased here: bit.ly/3gWNBZO.

Brian Cantrell, VP, acquisitions and capital markets at Vornado Realty Trust, was named one of *Crain's New York's Rising Stars* in Real Estate.

Emily Zibart is the associate general counsel, corporate services for Bridgestone Americas.

Raj Patel is managing counsel at United Airlines.

Will Hu lives in San Francisco with his wife, Jessica Meksavan BC'05. He writes, "She joined MUFG about a year ago and I joined the startup WhyHotel about the same time. We have two kids, Corinne (2.5 years) and Hugo (6 months). Everyone is happy and healthy, and my hair is really long."

Catherine C. Espaillet was recently promoted to associate professor of astronomy at Boston University.

2004

Jaydip Mahida
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After obtaining an M.P.A. at NYU's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service and living in California for nine years, **Pam Pradachith-Deimler** has relocated to the historic village of Schuylerville in upstate New York and opened a family-owned and operated farm brewery. After decades of working in

Columbia College Alumni on Facebook



facebook.com/alumnicc

Like the page to get alumni news, learn about alumni events and College happenings, view photos and more.



the nonprofit sector, she has realized a lifelong dream of creating a space to build community over a pint of craft brew. Bound By Fate Brewing is committed to social justice and will routinely brew specialty batches that support local organizations. Even though Pam opened a small business in the midst of a global pandemic while our county confronts its complicated history of systemic racism, she believes we can emerge from this more united, creating a more perfect union for all people. Pam — along with her husband, Brett Demler — is the proud parent of Weston Otis (4) and Elliott Roslyn (1).

Scott Moncur and his wife, Becky, welcomed their third child, Emma, on April 12. Sister Madison (4) and brother Andrew (2) welcomed her with open arms! Scott also just took on a new role at the Royal Bank of Canada as director of role strategy, starting in July.

Jacob Barandes (jacobbarandes.com), his wife, Shelley Barandes BC'01, and their daughters, Sadie (11) and Emily (7), continue to live in Cambridge, Mass., where Jacob is co-director of graduate studies for the Department of Physics at Harvard, and Shelley is the owner and head designer of Albertine Press, an antique-letterpress and graphic-design studio and store.

Jacqueline Shreibati writes, "I moved to the Bay Area in 2005 for medical school at Stanford and never left. My husband works in tech, and we have two children, Julian (4) and Natalia (2). I completed medical school, health services research training, an internal medicine residency and a general cardiology fellowship at Stanford, and after I graduated in 2016, I joined a consumer health startup, AliveCor, while maintaining a cardiology practice at a community clinic nearby. I was chief medical officer at AliveCor until December 2019, when I joined Google Health. I still see patients once a week, predominantly Medicaid patients, for general cardiovascular care, which keeps me grounded and inspires my work in digital health.

"I am grateful for all of the mentorship and professional advice I received at Columbia College: to be always curious, to push out of one's comfort zone, to be comfortable with being uncomfortable. Those

values and skills have served me well as a physician, mother, wife and innovator."

That's all for this issue. Please continue to send in updates, as we want to hear from as many folks as possible. Career and family updates are always fun, but please reach out to share about trips you may be taking, any events you have attended or are looking forward to, or even interesting books or shows you have come across. You can send updates either to the email at the top of the column or via the CCT Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2005

Columbia College Today
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CCT wishes the members of CC'05, and your loved ones, good health during these uncertain times. If you would like to share your news in the Winter 2020–21 issue, please send us an email.

2006

Andrew Stinger
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This summer I've spent a surprising amount of time thinking back on my first few weeks as a transfer student (am I even allowed to write this note?!) into the Class of 2006. After arriving in Morningside Heights, I almost immediately realized that getting the most out of my experience as a Columbia Lion would mean engaging in uncomfortable discourse, listening to divergent points of view and giving myself space to form or revise previously held opinions. As our world encounters no shortage of reckonings, I hope you find yourself courageously engaging in hard conversations that will no doubt shape the world we find on the other end of a pandemic.

And now for our classmates' exciting updates on how they are already shaping their futures!

Brian Wagner was promoted to lieutenant commander in the United States Navy Reserve and is assigned to Commander, U.S. Third Fleet.

Robert Wray has also been serving the United States: "I am a

major in the Air Force selected to commission into the new Space Force in September. I think I will be the first Columbia graduate to do so. I work for the State Department as a military aide supporting space policy."

Emily Hawkins has also been making career moves: "In the midst of unprecedented uncertainty, I'm beyond grateful to have embarked on a new professional journey with Amazon."

We also have two new books to add to our CC'06 bookshelves! **Paasha Mahdavi** published his first book, *Power Grab: Political Survival Through Extractive Resource Nationalization*, which explores the rise and fall of leaders in oil-rich countries. For the past two years, he has been an assistant professor of political science at UC Santa Barbara, where he enjoys socially distanced hiking with his 2-year-old son. **Elizabeth W. Carey's** first book, *Girls Running: All You Need to Strive, Thrive, and Run Your Best*, was to be published this summer.

2007

David D. Chait
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I continue to wish everyone in the Class of 2007 good health and all my best during this difficult time. I hope these updates from classmates are uplifting.

Julia Kite-Laidlaw writes, "My twin son and daughter, Francis Benjamin Stewart Laidlaw and Daphne Genevieve Laidlaw, were born on May 12 in Manhattan. While I definitely didn't have 'give birth in the middle of a pandemic' in my plan, I'm happy to say the kids are at home in Queens and doing well, and we look forward to less socially distant times."

Monica Ager Jacobsen shares, "I am an attorney adviser at the U.S. Department of State Office of the Legal Adviser, advising on human rights issues. Earlier this year I was honored to be named a finalist for the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals (also known as 'the Sammys'), which highlight excellence in the federal workforce. The nomination focuses on my work implementing the Global Magnitsky sanctions program and for 'playing a crucial behind-the-scenes role shaping the complex legal and

policy issues involved in imposing sanctions against dozens of human rights abusers worldwide."

Jonathan Truppman writes, "While the past six months seem like a dream, they haven't exactly been very sleepy."

In February, as general counsel of Casper, Jonathan helped take the sleep brand public on the NYSE. On March 14, he married Tile Altmann at Villa Mara in Mammee Bay, Jamaica, cocooning in a final bubble of paradise as the chaos of COVID-19 drastically disrupted the wider world. After mini-mooning in Port Antonio and the Blue Mountains with Jonathan's mother-in-law (who was stranded from Switzerland), Jonathan and Tile began their marriage cohabitating with Jonathan's parents in Miami, just like old times.

He says, "We are quarantining in the Swiss Alps with my father-in-law in a village of 21 people, but look forward to descending from the mountain July 28 to close on a house in Coconut Grove, Fla. Visit us (when that's a thing again)!"

Liz Miller (née Epstein) shares, "Looking for things to do during quarantine, we took a family hike to Inwood Hill Park. Lo and behold we were met by the Columbia 'C' painted on the rocks of the Hudson. My kids were so excited to see their future alma mater!"

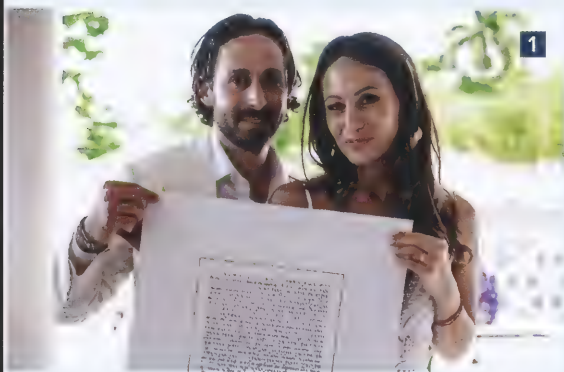
Chloe Raquel Woods Adebayo writes, "This is my first time submitting an update, but I have some phenomenally good news to share! I was selected by the National Bar Association for the 2020 '40 Under 40 Awards - Nation's Best Advocates,' as well as a 2020 'On the Rise - Top 40 Young Lawyers Award.' The 2020 list of honorees is available online at bit.ly/30Xt2Gb."

Sarah Smick shares, "I'm proud to report that I earned an M.F.A. in writing for screen and television from the University of Southern California, where I am also an Annenberg Fellow."

Rebecca Hartog writes, "My husband, Peter LaRossa, and I welcomed our first child on June 8. Adelaide June LaRossa is a gorgeous redheaded spitfire, and we are completely smitten. In July, I begin my last of three years in a pediatric cardiology fellowship with plans to pursue advanced fellowship in adult congenital heart disease."

Just Married!

CCT welcomes wedding photos where at least one member of the couple is a College alum. Please submit your high-resolution photo, and caption information, on our photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Congratulations!



ADRIAN MCDONALD



TYME PHOTOGRAPHY



SALZMAN & ASHLEY STUDIOS



KRISTINE PAULSON

1: Jonathan Truppman '07 and Tile Allemann were married at Villa Mara, in Mammee Bay, Jamaica, on March 14.

2: On October 12, Sharilyn Phillips '09 and Joel Bowen were married in a destination wedding in Johannesburg, South Africa. In attendance, left to right: Princess Myrie '06, Sonya Shadravan BC'10, the groom, the bride, Lucia Mattox BC'10 and Tiffany Dockery '09.

3: Debbie Goodman '11 and Matthew Scheff were married at Temple Beth El of Cedarhurst, N.Y., on March 8. Left to right: Sharon Green PH'19, Laura Sperber '11, Richard Goodman '80 (father of the bride), the bride, the groom, Zoe Lubitz '11 and Carly Solon BC'12.

4: Alena Lovi-Borgmann '16 and Daniel Meyer GS'13 were married in Missoula, Mont., on June 13.

Eric Bondarsky shares, "I took four hikes this spring. I don't think I've hiked in about 10 years."

Rebecca Hogue writes, "I graduated with a Ph.D. in English and a Designated Emphasis in Native American studies from UC Davis, where I was a Mellon/ACLS Public Fellow. This fall, I will begin teaching at Harvard."

Congratulations, everyone, on your exciting news!

2008

Columbia College Today
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No news this time, but best wishes for the health and safety of the members of CC'08 and your loved

ones. Be well, and let's stay connected — send us an email. Classmates want to hear from you!

2009

Chantee Dempsey
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Despite a global pandemic, CC'09 continued to thrive.

Emily Jordan recently cofounded the health tech startup Ancora, an AI-powered platform to connect patients to clinical trials. They have been doing a lot of work on COVID-19 and have recently received several grants from EIT Health and Future Perfect. Their vision is to diversify and democratize clinical trials, as they are one of the best ways for patients to get early and

free access to incredibly innovative medicines. COVID-19 trials are aiming to recruit more than one million participants, and this number is growing, which poses an unprecedented challenge for the medical research community. Ancora.ai has been trying to help accelerate this challenging process by empowering patients and healthy volunteers to participate.

Billy Freeland SIPA'10 announced in July that he is running for New York City Council as a candidate in District 5, which includes the Upper East Side, Roosevelt Island, East Harlem and Midtown East. He is running on a platform of affordable housing, investing in public transit, decarceration policies, climate justice and tackling systemic racism. You can follow him at billyfreeland.com and on Twitter

@BillyFreelandNY. The Democratic primary is in June 2021.

Jenny Lam has created a virtual version of "SLAYSIAN" — the exhibition she curated in the spring featuring 39 Asian-American artists from Chicago and the Midwest area — which can be enjoyed in the safety and comfort of your home at artistsonthelam.com/slaysian. As for her own artwork, Jenny is thrilled to announce that she's been selected to receive a 2020 Individual Artists Program grant from the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events.

Michael Emerson and Adina Bitton BC'08 recently celebrated the one-year milestone of their move to Jerusalem. Michael started working at Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies leading its recruiting and market-



ing strategy, as well as working in development and fundraising on the side. Adina masterfully led the pandemic shelter-at-home efforts keeping everyone busy with arts and crafts, daily exercise and educational activities. Daughters Maayan, Lital and Keren have adjusted smoothly to the new language, new schools and new environment. Michael and Adina wish classmates health, happiness and a better start to 2021!

Brandon Shulman finished his hand surgery fellowship at Harvard's Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and recently relocated to Connecticut with his wife, Brooke TC'11, and daughter, Lily. Brandon is an orthopedic hand surgeon at OrthoConnecticut in Norwalk and Westport.

Meredith Martin and Heron Haas will move to the Raleigh area this fall with their son, Briar. Meredith completed a Ph.D. in forest ecology at the Yale School of the Environment this year and will be an assistant professor of silviculture at NC State in January. She and Heron would love to hear from anyone in the Triangle!

Samuel Fury Childs Daly GSAS'17 is an assistant professor at Duke. His book *A History of the Republic of Biafra: Law, Crime, and the Nigerian Civil War* will be published this year.

Heather Robinson was awarded a Ph.D. in modern Iranian history from the University of St Andrews this past summer.

Tom Stewart is a father! He and his wife, Alyson Pullman, welcomed Luca West Stewart on July 5 (6 lbs., 8 oz.)!

Arita Thatté GS'15 graduated from medical school and started her internal medicine residency at UW in Seattle.

2010

Julia Feldberg Klein
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Laura Z. Weldon was awarded a doctorate of naturopathic medicine from the National University of Natural Medicine in Portland, Ore., on June 27. She earned a master's in integrative mental health last summer. Laura plans to return to Kentucky this fall and begin practicing via telemedicine, specializing in natural and integrative therapies such as nutrition

and herbal medicine. Her practice, Weldon Wellness, will focus on supporting people with chronic physical/mental illness and neurodivergence, including autism and ADHD.

Rebecca Salley shares, "After two years at the Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati (and University of Michigan Law School, Class of 2016) I joined the Cincinnati civil rights law firm Gerhardstein & Branch Co. as an associate attorney in December 2019. My litigation practice focuses on police brutality, prisoner abuse, reproductive freedom, fair housing and other anti-discrimination issues. Gerhardstein & Branch is noted for representing plaintiff Jim Obergefell at the Supreme Court in *Obergefell v. Hodges* (a marriage equality case) and Ohio's reproductive health providers, including Planned Parenthood."

Chris Yim writes, "What the hell? This year has kicked me in the head, socked me in the jugular and slapped me in the face. There are so many things to say about it, and it's 1 a.m. right now, so I'll see what I can muster up. I have been feeling pretty downright depressed this week because I have this question lingering in my head as I read news headlines, my Facebook newsfeed, see people outside and show up in my own relationships, and that question is — how do I care about others more than myself? I don't feel super optimistic about people's ability to be less self-centered. I think where I land on others' ability to change is more a reflection of how I feel about myself than it is anyone else. So, I came to acting school in Brooklyn in January of this year. I had no idea what it would be like, but I knew that I wanted to explore what it meant to transform. When I think about healing myself, my relationships and society, I think about transformation — our ability to see ourselves differently so that we can be different. The reason why I got into acting was so that I could transform through storytelling."

"Anyway, this year has pushed me to become more available to myself, and as a result, it's made feeling all these emotions that I was previously unaware of really taxing. COVID-19 has taken a lot out of me — the collective sadness and suffering that we're experiencing have been very heavy. I am sad for all those who have lost loved ones. My condolences.

"I want to say my small piece about the systemic oppression of Black folks in the United States. I'm curious as to what our newsfeeds will look like when this issue comes out. I had to reawaken recently to the horrors of this country. I had gotten comfortable and fallen asleep. I spent most of my 20s disconnecting from my emotions, and it made me unable to feel the grief of what is happening to Black people in this country. I knew it intellectually, but I didn't feel something in my heart. As I am trying to own my complicity, the ways that I have pushed racist ideas and agendas forward, I have become more aware of how this connection we have to other people's pain is important. In my own experience, I can best empathize with someone else's vulnerability when I can connect it to the ways that I've felt isolated. All this to say that there's a lot of work to do on ourselves, as we change the system.

"Author and scholar Ibram X. Kendi says that because racism is so much about denial, anti-racism has to be about confession. I didn't see or know anything about systemic oppression when I was in college, but when I look back, there were so many messed up things that I said, did and supported. I wish that I had begun to decolonize my mind earlier. (Just look at all the names above Butler — I did that recently on a run — they are all white men.) I guess I'm just urging whoever reads this to confess your own complicity in racism, own it in a deep way that forces you to sit with the discomfort and vow to change it in the world. Columbia got me thinking about the world that I want to live in, and it's one where people care about the wellness of all.

"Does anyone else ever think about how backward the world is sometimes? I find myself thinking about this so often during these times (I guess times have always been backward), but I feel so sad that humans are so inflexible. I had friends in the Bay who just wanted to 'have a good time,' and I see a lot of people who graduated from our school who have gone down the path of wanting to conform to convention — make a lot of money, partner up, have a kid, conform, conform, conform — and it's not that conforming is bad, it's just that we paid so much to be able to think for ourselves and to challenge our paradigm, but many don't do that. We are so desperately afraid of

what it might mean to be alone, to stand apart from a crowd, to not be liked, to sit in tension, and I think that's why the world is messed up. My comment about just having a good time is that this is how you get the shades pulled over you, and you forget about the reality of what's happening in the world. Also, seeking to live for a good time is such a boring existence. Get out, fight, shake shit up. I'll get back to you soon about how 2020 ends. For now, I'll leave you with this Audre Lorde quote about how we tear down the system: 'For the master's tools will never dismantle the master's house. They may allow us temporarily to beat him at his own game, but they will never enable us to bring about genuine change.'

2011

Nuriel Moghavem and Sean Udeh
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Black lives matter.

We are proud of the members of the Class of 2011 who are taking the time to reflect on systemic racism in our communities and who are stepping up in their daily lives to produce action and change. We hope our class, and the Columbia alumni community as a whole, will continue to participate in this worldwide movement for equality and justice in perpetuity. There is much work to be done.

2012

Sarah Chai
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I hope that classmates are staying safe and healthy in these difficult times. Please be well. If you would like to share news in the Winter 2020–21 issue, send me an email.

2013

Tala Akhavan
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Hello, Class of 2013! I hope everyone is staying safe, washing their hands and soaking up the last bits of summer as much as possible, given

these crazy times. Here are a few exciting updates from classmates.

On a personal note, in July my husband, Andrew Wood '14, and I welcomed a baby girl, Mila, into our family. We spent the summer enjoying getting to know her (in quarantine!) and taking advantage of the outdoors in Los Angeles, where we now live.

Patricia Howard was planning to open Dame, a modern English restaurant, in the West Village this fall with her partner, chef Ed Szymanski. With the opening postponed by COVID-19, they pivoted to a more casual, to-go-friendly outdoor concept, Dame Summer Club, which specializes in fish and chips, Pimm's Cups and Eton mess. All profits are donated to charity, with a different cause every month; June's profits were donated to NAACP and July's to Harlem Grown. Located at 85 MacDougal St., the pop-up is open Tuesday–Sunday through October. Dame will continue to operate various pop-up concepts until opening a permanent location is safe and sensible. Stop by to taste the treats and support a Columbia-owned business!

Iman Nanji graduated with an M.B.A. and an M.P.P. from UCLA in June. She will join the Boston Consulting Group as a consultant in its Los Angeles office in January along with two other members of the Class of 2013! Iman got a fellowship through BCG to work for a nonprofit and learn Portuguese until she starts her job. The highlight of her summer, she says, was meeting **Tala Akhavan** and Andrew Wood '14's beautiful baby girl, Mila!

Caitlin Hoeberlein got engaged in London over the New Year holiday. This spring, she graduated from Harvard Law School (virtually) and has since relocated to Seattle with her fiancé. She'll start work as a litigation associate for Perkins Coie this fall; in the meantime, she's volunteering with the Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality on race and criminal law in Washington, D.C. Any Lions out west, feel free to reach out!

After earning a master's in Budapest, **Rebecca Smith** lived for five years in Barcelona, where she learned Spanish and Catalan and spent time with her freshman-year RA, Adina Rose Levin '11, who also moved to Barcelona. She felt the time had come for more professional

opportunities in sustainable development, and last year moved back to her hometown, Paris, after what had been 10 years abroad. Rebecca now is a sustainable finance analyst at Vigeo Eiris, a sustainability research company affiliated with Moody's. With her team, she does an independent evaluation of the environmental and social aspects of "green" and "social" financial instruments (e.g., bonds and loans), assessing their expected contribution to sustainability.

Over the past year, **Alejandra Jimenez** has been working on writing and producing a solo alternative rock EP under the name Agent Envy. Her leading single, "My Own Summer," was released on all platforms (Spotify, Apple Music, iTunes, etc.) on August 14, with additional original singles off the EP to follow in the coming months. Check out her Instagram profile (@agent.envy) for the latest updates.

Ryan Mandelbaum married Brittany Widseth in a private ceremony on April 20. He works at IBM, where he runs a blog on quantum computing.

Katie DeSandis returned to Columbia in 2017 as an assistant coach for the varsity field hockey team. She was named head coach this past June.

Congrats, Katie!

Bridget DeSandis graduated as a doctor of physical therapy from Arcadia University in January, and was awarded the Jill Sisenwine Berger Physical Therapy Award (presented to a physical therapy student who best exemplifies the core values of the physical therapy profession — accountability, altruism, compassion and caring, excellence, integrity, profession, duty and social responsibility). Bridget graduated on the Dean's Distinguished Honors list, as a member of the Alpha Epsilon Lambda - Phi Chapter and as class co-president. After graduation, she spent time working at the Friends of Redeemer United Physical Therapy Clinic in St. Elizabeth parish, Jamaica, prior to beginning her job at Excel Physical Therapy this past spring.

Blaine Harper completed a Ph.D. in psychology at the University of Arizona this year, and is on the job market in data science. If anyone in CC'13 knows of interesting data science roles, please reach out to Blaine!

Harry Flager is the pastry chef at a fine-dining restaurant in San Francisco.

Having started her pre-med journey at Columbia, where she graduated with a major in neuroscience, **ChiChi Mpamaugo** is proud to announce that this year she graduated from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. She obtained both an M.D. and an M.P.H. This year, she started her pediatric residency at University of Washington Seattle Children's Hospital, where she has an interest in cardiology and health inequality. She looks forward to moving to the West Coast for the first time and seeing what Seattle has to offer. As we continue to fight two viruses, both COVID-19 and ongoing racism, ChiChi hopes to make a lasting impact on the lives of her patients and within her community.

2014

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If you would like to share news in the Winter 2020–21 issue, please send me a note. Be well, and let's stay connected!

2015

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No news this time, but best wishes for the continued health and safety of the members of the Class of 2015 and your loved ones. Let's stay connected — send me a note.

2016

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Hey, 2016. This has been a hard year for me so far. Many of you wrote in sharing similar feelings, but through the ups and downs of 2020, I am inspired by the determination and perseverance among us and the ability to make me smile, laugh and reflect all at once. Here are some words and updates from your classmates (and keep nominating your wonderful friends).

Catherine Jenkinson started a D.Phil. in history last fall at the University of Oxford, where she is a student at Hertford College. Her

dissertation considers the Tower of London's use as a state prison in early modern England and the role of status in determining prison privileges. She says that while there, it's been wonderful for her to connect with many fellow Columbia grads studying or visiting Oxford! After the university temporarily closed in March, she went to North Dakota, where she's been working for the state's COVID-19 response unit. She hopes to return to the U.K. soon, and she shared a photo of her and **Alex Randall** at Oxford.

From **Katrina Martell**: "After my first job out of college, I became a senior fellow for Humanity in Action, through which I traveled to Bosnia, and later began a policy fellowship in Washington, D.C. Yes, I still miss New York! I serve as communications director and policy advisor for Rep. Alcee Hastings (D-Fla.), a senior member of the Congressional Black Caucus and Democratic leadership. Since I got here in 2018, Dems won back our House majority, formally impeached President Trump and entered 2020 grappling with a (double) pandemic — COVID-19 and a long-overdue national demand for an end to systemic racism in policing.

"I am honored to be advancing many important goals — from minority rights, equity in education, justice in policing, human trafficking awareness and public health, to women's rights, among other things — during such a tumultuous, historic and, yes, very much still a hopeful time. I let my 'D.C. basic' shine through in my love of brunch and happy hours, and am always up for



Isabel Robinson '16, Justine Horton '16 and Yixin Sun '16 went hiking.



Alex Randall '16 and Catherine Jenkinson '16 met up at Oxford.

scary movies, tennis or a good run. If you're in D.C., please connect!"

From **Iman Fears SOA'19**: "After I graduated from Columbia, I moved to Atlanta to work at an advertising agency, where I helped to develop AT&T's media and brand strategy. There were a lot of hectic-yet-fun moments, like launching the Taylor Swift NOW x AT&T app (which I'm pretty sure no longer exists). After one year, I returned to NYC to earn an M.F.A. in fiction at Columbia, graduating with a half-written YA novel. Ever since then, I've worked in the Brooklyn office of Mission North, a Silicon Valley-based tech communications agency. My clients include AI companies, VCs and fintech startups like Betterment and Albert. In March 2020, I finally finished my novel, and in April I signed with a wonderful literary agent who really believes in my work. Publishing is weird right now because of the pandemic, but I hope I'll be on bookshelves in a few years! Message me if you want to go on a social-distancing walk."

From **Madison Ford**: "Dear alumni, like so many of us, I was promised quite a few things when I (my dad) wrote that first tuition check to Columbia. Global respect. Unending connections. Fortune. Ideally fame. But here we are, eight years and a billion tuition checks later (a bunch I am having to write now, too), and I am simply poor. I am very funny, and very cool, do not get me wrong. And I do have some respect in some very small, niche circles. But where is the wealth, Columbia? Where is the alumni network lifting me up and shooting me toward the stars? These are hard times. Scary times. Uncertain times. And we need to be there for each other. But more than anything, we need to be there for me. So. Please find it in your hearts to donate money and connections to this sad, unwashed white girl. And if you cannot spare connections, money is fine. Go Lions!"

From **Polina Porotsky**: "I feel like *Cosmo* told us that your 20s are a confusing and tumultuous time. 'Not for me it won't be!' said naïve, 16-year-old Polina. But here we are, and I am reporting unprecedented levels of confusion on my part, ranging from questions about my purpose in life to my fashion choices. After Columbia I made the unexpectedly scary decision to not go to medical school. It felt like I've been preparing to be a doctor my whole life and suddenly I wasn't sure whether I was making conscious decisions or trodding along because of the sunken cost fallacy of sorts."

"I ended up in journalism school, writing about ants, diabetes, pig poop and all other kinds of stuff. Since then I've worked at NBC, *Psychology Today* and other publications, as well as at a documentary company. I'm also finally back to playing piano regularly and making memes. You can always drop me a line at pportosky@gmail.com."

Yixin "Sunny" Sun was recently the subject of *The Dilemma of Desire*, a documentary that explores the work of four women who are shattering the dominant and outdated sexual narratives that have mostly gone unexplored and unchallenged in our society. The documentary also weaves in the stories of five young women (including Sunny!), intimately exploring what it means for them in "real life" to find their voice and the courage needed to own their sexuality. To stay updated on screenings, follow the documentary on Instagram @dilemmaofdesire.

2017

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Class Notes for CC'17 is taking a hiatus for this issue and will be back in the Winter 2020–21 issue; until then, stay healthy and be well. Please take a moment to send me a note.

2018

Alexander Birkel and Maleeha Chida
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Julien Reiman started a docuseries, *Talk With Your Mouth Full*, last

summer with Farah Al Chammas, a Syrian refugee and anthropologist. Both Julien and Farah studied how the act of sharing meals has profound political and social meaning. The goal is to use food to tackle the political and social divisions that are tearing America apart. Every episode profiles a different immigrant chef, and features a roundtable mealtime conversation among people of different political/economic/racial identities. The show is running a Kickstarter campaign, and you can find the trailer online as well: bit.ly/3hMIInQr.

Briley Lewis recently earned a master's in astronomy and astrophysics from UCLA and is continuing on to her Ph.D. She also decided that working from home for the foreseeable future meant it's the perfect time to adopt a dog, and welcomed Rocky, a sweet 8-year-old Husky rescue mix, into her life. He loves belly rubs, meaty treats and exploring the outdoors.

María Muratalla Maes is directing and producing a feature-length documentary that is a self-determined representation of Indigenous peoples militarized by the México–U.S. borderlands to protect the sacredness of the land, her peoples and her creatures. Specifically, María is looking into permanent surveillance apparatuses that are being built in the backyards on the Tohono O'odham Nation reservation. She is also choreographing, directing, producing and editing a short dance film about ancestral grace, resilience and unity, which features many Columbia and Barnard folk as collaborators and dancers.

2019

Emily Gruber and Tj Aspen Givens
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Josh Schenk is enrolled in Yale Law, Class of 2022. He is a U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee law clerk in Washington, D.C.

Tj Aspen Givens recently completed the Fortune 500 M&T Bank: Management Development Program. She works at the firm's Park Avenue location as a commercial banking marketing manager,

overseeing 16 specialty lending verticals and solutions partners' annual advertising, content, digital, sponsorships and social campaigns. Tj was recently honored with the Gramercy Institute's Return on Investment Award – Lead Generation category for her "Grow New Markets Differently – Commercial Equipment Finance" campaign.

Katie Smith will be staying in her native Ohio to attend the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. To Katie, Cincinnati feels like the biggest small town in America (she has never said hi to so many people before on the street). That, in addition to the welcoming admissions team, innovative curriculum and rewarding connection to the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, makes her ecstatic to begin this fall.

2020

Santiago Tobar Potes
Stephen Cone
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CCT welcomes the CC'20 class correspondents, **Santiago Tobar Potes** and **Stephen Cone**! Below, they introduce themselves. Please take a moment to send them your news.

From Santiago: "Hello, Lions! Our Class Notes column allows you to share announcements with our memorable Class of 2020, as well as the broader Columbia College alumni community. Share with us your career changes, engagements and marriages, vacations or relocations, and more, including pictures! Who knows who you'll (re)connect with down the line? Write me — especially if you are also in the NYC area. Let's outdoor-dine!"

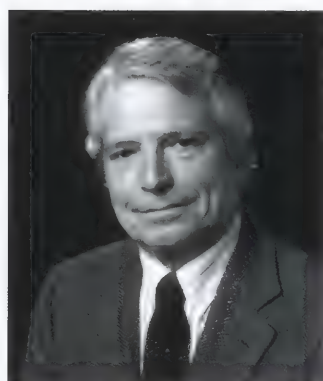
From Stephen: "Hello, fellow Columbia College graduates. While I unfortunately did not meet all of you throughout our time together in Morningside Heights, we can still learn about each other's exciting post-graduation lives (New jobs! Graduate school! Weddings! Fun Columbia memories!) through the Class Notes. Please feel free to email me with any and all updates. I look forward to seeing you all again soon during our in-person graduation (first reunion?) sometime in the future."

obituaries

Editor's note: In recognition of the toll taken by the COVID-19 pandemic, CCT wishes to acknowledge those in our community who have died from complications of the virus. Their obituaries are marked with a ♦ symbol.

1947

Harold E. Pagliaro, retired professor, Swarthmore, Pa., on February 15, 2020. A renowned scholar of 18th-century English literature, Pagliaro



Harold E. Pagliaro '47

was provost emeritus and the Alexander Griswold Cumming Professor Emeritus of English Literature at Swarthmore. Born and raised in the Bronx, he spent two semesters at the College before he was drafted into the Army during WWII, where he served on the European front and

received a Purple Heart, a Combat Infantry Badge and a Bronze Star. After his discharge in 1945, Pagliaro resumed his studies and earned two degrees from GSAS, an M.A. in 1948 and a Ph.D. in 1961. He taught at Columbia until 1964, when he moved to Swarthmore and taught 18th-century English literature and English romantic poetry until his retirement in 1992. He chaired the English literature department 1971–74 and 1986–91 and was provost 1974–79. Pagliaro authored several books on English literature as well as *Naked Heart: A Soldier's Journey to the Front* (1996), based on letters he had sent to his parents while stationed in Europe. He is survived by his wife, Judith GS'66; sons, Robert, John and Blake; daughter Susanna; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

1952

Richard A. Symes, retired reverend, Granville, N.Y., on April 3, 2020. Symes earned a bachelor of divinity from Princeton Seminary and a doctorate of divinity from San Francisco Theological Seminary. He served parishes in Detroit, New York, Palo Alto, Calif., and Caracas, Venezuela, and also served on national committees of the Presbyterian Church. Before he began parish ministry he spent a year in Germany, including a semester at the University in Bonn. Along with members of his congregations, Symes marched for civil rights and in protest of the Vietnam War, yet despite his antiwar stance he collected and painted miniature soldiers. Some of the churches he served became More Light (LGBTQ) and Sanctuary churches. He was a volunteer prison chaplain in New York and a visitor to the local federal prison in retirement. Symes and his wife of 60 years, Patricia, retired to Granville, where he had built a summer cabin in 1973. They traveled extensively in the early years of retirement, particularly in Italy, and he added Italian to other languages he had learned. In addition to his wife, Symes is survived by his sons Christopher, and Preston and his wife, Jennifer; two grandchildren; and sister, Barbara Jones. He was predeceased by an infant son, Mark.

1954

Seymour Hertz, retired attorney, New York City, on May 24, 2020. Born on July 12, 1932, Hertz earned a degree from the Law School in 1956. He was a former partner in the New York firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison. He is survived by his wife, Elaine; daughter, Patricia; and son, Stephen.

Ronald F. Thompson, attorney, Philadelphia, on January 21, 2020. Born and raised in Brooklyn, Thompson earned a law degree from Yale. He devoted much of his career to being in-house counsel at United Technologies Corp. for various divisions, including Otis Elevator in Paris, France. His passion was music; he was an active choral singer for most of his adult life, singing with the Ann Arbor Cantata Singers, the Hartford Symphony Chorale and St. Mark's Choir in Philadelphia. Thompson is survived by his wife, Susan; daughters Diana, and Dana Goldberg and her husband, Jacob; and Zoe Katz and her husband, Jeremy; and four grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Penn Medicine Hospice, Bala Cynwyd, Pa., or Magee Rehabilitation Hospital, Philadelphia.

Vito R. Vincenti, attorney, Woodland Park, N.J., on July 21, 2020. Vincenti was born and raised in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, and was a longtime resident of Manhasset, N.Y. After graduation from the Law School in 1957, he was a commercial attorney for more than five



Vito R. Vincenti '54

decades, specializing in cross-border transactions and litigation. Vincenti co-founded and for 33 years was a partner of Vincenti and Schickler in Manhattan, then formed Vincenti & Vincenti with his sons, John '90 and Paul, and practiced law for an additional 20 years. For more than 50 years he was a member of the Tiro A Segno social club, where he was a director and officer, helped draft its constitution and bylaws, and chaired its foundation. A longtime supporter of the College and former president of the Columbia University Club of Long Island, he was an avid fisherman, and an insatiable reader with a strong independent streak and a zeal for lifetime learning. He is survived by his wife, Edna; son John '90 and his wife, Kampf; son Paul and his wife, Christina; and four grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Core Curriculum c/o the Columbia College Fund (college.givenow.columbia.edu).

1958

♦ **Charles Goodstein**, psychoanalyst, Tenafly, N.J., on April 30, 2020. Born and raised in NYC, Goodstein graduated from Stuyvesant H.S. After graduation from the University of Pittsburgh Medical School, he served as a captain in the Air Force and then became an adult and child psychoanalyst in Tenafly. Goodstein was a clinical professor on the faculty of NYU Medical School, teaching as part of the Psychoanalytic Association of New York. He was a devoted family man with enthusiasm about the world, an ability to make everyone laugh, a flair for the dramatic and a never-ending intellectual curiosity. Goodstein is survived by his wife of 58 years, Carolyn; son, Clifford; daughter, Catherine Wallace; brother-in-law, Ian Wallace; and two grandchildren.

Norman P. Herzberg, retired mathematician, Princeton, N.J., on March 29, 2020. Born in Brooklyn, Herzberg graduated from James Madison H.S., then magna cum laude from the College and earned a Ph.D. in mathematics from MIT in 1965. He was employed by the Institute for

Obituary Submission Guidelines

Columbia College Today welcomes obituaries for graduates of Columbia College. We do not publish obituaries for undergraduate or graduate alumni of any other Columbia University school. Word limit is 200; text may be edited for length, clarity and style at the editors' discretion. Links and/or addresses for memorial contributions may be included. Please go to "Contact Us" at college.columbia.edu/cct and fill out the "Submit an Obituary" form.



William F. Haddad '54, JRN'54, Journalist, Politician, Crusader

William F. Haddad '54, JRN'54 was never one to stay in any place, or any job, for very long. But wherever he went, he made his presence felt.

As a journalist, he helped bring down New York power broker Robert Moses and founded a weekly newspaper, the *Manhattan Tribune*, with Roy Innis, national director of the Congress of Racial Equality. As a politician, he advised many office holders, including Estes Kefauver, Robert F. Kennedy and Mario M. Cuomo. As an activist, he was the first inspector general of the Peace Corps, spearheaded the sale of generic drugs and helped bring affordable AIDS medication to Africa. As a businessman, he was marketing director for John DeLorean, the charismatic carmaker whose company would implode due to DeLorean's corruption.

In his heart, Haddad considered himself a crusader. "I'm a provocateur," he once said. "I learned that from Estes Kefauver. I used to ask him, 'Why do you get into all these battles?' and he would say, 'Never let one go by.' I wish I could. I wish I could learn to keep my mouth shut. But I can't."

Haddad died on April 30, 2020, in Poughquag, N.Y. He was 91.

Born on July 25, 1928, in Charlotte, N.C., Haddad lied about his age so he could join the Merchant Marine at 15 and served aboard cargo ships in the Pacific during WWII. While at the College, he simultaneously earned a master's from the Journalism School.

He joined Kefauver's staff in 1954 and helped to secure his nomination as Adlai Stevenson's vice-presidential running mate in 1956. Haddad then became a reporter at the *New York Post*, where, along with other reporters, he linked Moses to paybacks, financial corruption and organized crime, leading to Moses's downfall after more than 40 years as the city's most powerful politician. Haddad received a George Polk Award, one of journalism's highest honors, in 1958, and shared another in 1959.

In 1961, Haddad became a top assistant to R. Sargent Shriver, founding director of the Peace Corps, and was its associate director and first inspector general. A friend of the Kennedys, he made an unsuccessful

bid for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1964 and never ran for office again, but advised on RFK's 1968 presidential campaign and managed Cuomo's victorious 1982 New York gubernatorial campaign.

In the 1970s, Haddad taught at Sarah Lawrence, returned to the *New York Post*, worked for DeLorean for two tumultuous years, chaired a state panel on education and directed the State Assembly's office of legislative oversight and analysis, where he investigated corruption in banking. In 1974, he persuaded the legislature and Gov. Hugh L. Carey to let doctors prescribe generic drugs in place of higher-priced brand names. A decade later, he took his campaign nationwide and was instrumental in shepherding landmark legislation that removed longstanding legal and regulatory hurdles to the manufacture and sale of generic drugs.

Haddad devoted the latter part of his career to lowering the cost of drugs used to treat HIV/AIDS in Africa and elsewhere. In 2001, he worked with Cipla, a drug company in India,



TED RUSSELL / GETTY IMAGES

to make way for the use of generic AIDS medicines and to reduce the price of lifesaving drug cocktails.

Haddad's marriages to Kate Roosevelt, a granddaughter of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Noreen Walsh ended in divorce. He is survived by his daughters from his first marriage, Laura Whitney-Thomas, Andrea and Lulie; children from his second marriage, Amanda Reina and Robert; stepson, Steve Walsh; 13 grandchildren; and two great-grandsons.

—Alex Sachare '71

Defense Analyses at Princeton from 1968 until his retirement in 2000. Herzberg published several papers on his specialty, number theory, and wrote numerous classified papers while at IDA. He and his wife of 52 years, Barbara, whom he married in the MIT Chapel in 1967, traveled all over the world together, often to Greece and the nearby islands. They also went to Malta, Morocco, Madeira, Mexico, China, Egypt, India, England, Ireland, Scotland, France and Italy, among other places. Herzberg was an avid and skilled photographer and documented their travels extensively. In addition to his wife, Herzberg is survived by his brother, Edward; and sister, Susan.

1961

Joel Friedman, investor and real estate developer, New York City, on July 20, 2020. Born in Denver on

August 17, 1939, Friedman lived in Westchester County and Manhattan after graduation. As a partner of Founders Capital Group, he was a skilled dealmaker who loved his work. Friedman was an avid runner and expert skier who enjoyed travel, singing and spending time with his family. He is survived by his son, Ted; daughter, Jennifer '93, LAW'98; brothers, Daniel and Jonathan; and two grandchildren.

1963

Paul V. Reale, retired composer, Canoga Park, Calif., on July 22, 2020. Born on March 2, 1943, Reale earned an M.A. from GSAS in 1967. He was a prolific composer of classical music whose output included works for every musical instrument. A professional pianist, he wrote countless solo keyboard pieces. Reale taught at UCLA,

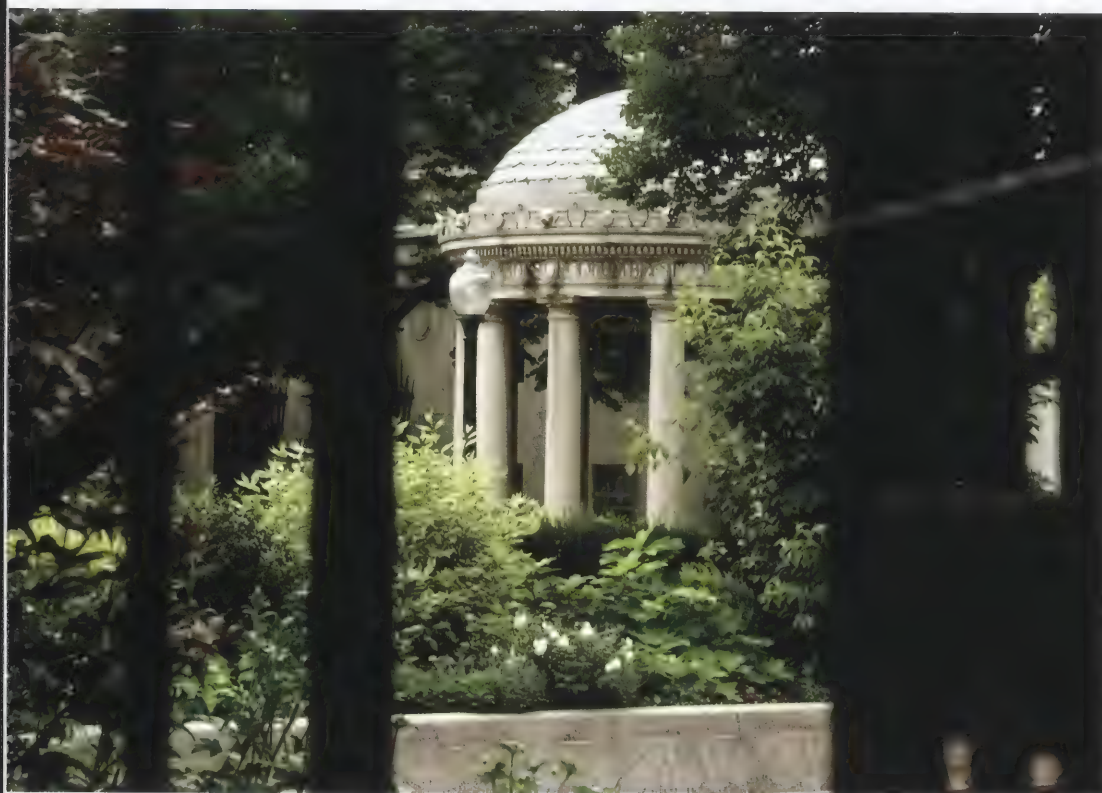
retiring in 2004, and continued to compose music that is available on the Naxos, MSR, and Music & Arts labels. He is survived by his wife, Claire Rydell.

Geoffrey A. Thompson, financial executive, Lyme, Conn., on August 3, 2020. Born on October 26, 1940, in White Plains, N.Y., Thompson grew up in Central Valley, N.Y., as the oldest of five siblings. He attended Deerfield Academy and spent a year working on a sheep station in the Australian outback before majoring in history at the College. After two years in the Navy, he earned an M.B.A. from Harvard in 1967. Thompson often joked that he held 72 jobs in his life, from waiting tables and driving taxis to running a bank and serving on corporate boards. He started his professional career at *Newsweek* but switched to banking in 1970 and held positions at A.G. Becker and

Citicorp before joining GE Capital in 1978 as general manager and VP for consumer finance. In 1981, Thompson moved to Marine Midland Bank and was president and CEO 1985-90. He remained CEO after Marine Midland was acquired by HSBC and sat on the board for eight years. He later worked in the executive search business and private equity, and sat on several corporate boards. A lifelong lover of sailing, Thompson is survived by his wife of 54 years, Claudia; daughter, Marina Cummins and her husband, James; brothers, Jonathan and Kimberley; sister, Kathy McCurdy and her husband, John; and two grandchildren.

1964

Frederick W. Kantor, New York City, retired physicist and inventor, on May 15, 2020. Born in NYC on July 19, 1942, Kantor entered



with the Class of 1963 and earned a Ph.D. in physics from GSAS in 1973. For his doctoral thesis, Kantor invented a way to polish the surfaces of an X-ray telescope. Although the rocket carrying the telescope he built crashed on takeoff at Los Alamos, N.M., his patented design was replicated by Lockheed for NASA. His other patents included new ways to make air conditioners, to carry away sewage waste and to help people with macular degeneration to read again. He developed an approach to physics that was captured in his groundbreaking book, *Information Mechanics* (1977). Kantor had an ear for music and taught himself guitar, piano and organ. He is survived by his sister, Susan G. Zepeda and her husband, Fred P. Seifer; and brother, Paul B. '59 and his wife, Carole J. Kaplowitz Kantor. Memorial contributions may be made to the Columbia physics department or the New Jewish Home in Manhattan.

1965

♦ **Mark J. Steiner**, philosophy professor, Jerusalem, Israel, on April 6, 2020. Born in the Bronx, Steiner

entered the College in 1960 but spent a year studying Talmud in Israel prior to his senior year. Azriel Genack '64 recalled Steiner as being "deeply engaged with fellow students and faculty, especially with Professor Sidney Morgenbesser," with whom he developed a close friendship that lasted until Morgenbesser's death in 2004. After a Fulbright Fellowship at Oxford, Steiner earned a Ph.D. from Princeton in 1972 before becoming an instructor at Columbia. He moved to Israel in 1977 and chaired the philosophy department at Hebrew University in Jerusalem in the 1990s, although he often returned to Columbia to teach during the summer. Steiner also translated a series of Jewish philosophy books from Yiddish to English. In his most famous book, *The Applicability of Mathematics as a Philosophical Problem* (2002), Steiner argued that man's ability to discover natural laws means that the universe is innately user friendly and that there is meaning and reason in things. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Rachel Freeman BC'65; brother, Richard; sons, Hillel, Yoel and Aharon; daughters, Hadas and Navah; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

1970

Charles I. Linzner, attorney, Yardley, Pa., on June 6, 2020. Born in Philadelphia on August 30, 1948, Linzner earned a J.D. from NYU in 1974 and began his professional career at Dewey, Ballantine, Bushby, Palmer & Wood, where he worked in NYC 1974-77 and 1980-83 and in Paris 1977-80. He became VP, general counsel, for Squibb Medical Systems in Bellevue, Wash., in 1983; associate general counsel for Squibb in Princeton, N.J., in 1985; and general counsel of U.S. operations for Squibb in 1988. Since 1991, Linzner was VP, senior counsel pharmaceutical research institute/worldwide business development, for Bristol-Myers Squibb. His interests included mountain climbing, technical rock and ice climbing, skiing, scuba diving and fly fishing. He is survived by his wife of 29 years, Nancy J. Meyer.

1975

Jorge de Jesus "George" Guttlein, attorney, Bronx, N.Y., on December 23, 2019. A history major who was a residence hall security

guard to fulfill work-study obligations, Guttlein earned three graduate degrees from Columbia: international fellow in 1976 from SIPA, M.I.A. in 1979 from SIPA and J.D. in 1979 from the Law School. He practiced criminal and immigration litigation law for more than 30 years, including in the Latino community. In 2007, he founded the Bronx firm of Jorge Guttlein & Associates and mentored many young attorneys. He was an avid student of history, a foodie and a benefactor of the arts. Guttlein is survived by his wife, Luisa De La Nuez; son, Juan Carlos and his wife, Jessica; stepdaughter, Pamela Gonzalez; and two grandchildren.

1977

Nicholas L. Bogen, geologist, Durham, N.C., on April 23, 2020. Bogen entered with the Class of 1971 and was active in the student protests before leaving the College in 1969 and working as a carpenter for several years in upstate New York. He earned an M.A. and an M.Phil. in geological sciences in 1981 and 1982, respectively, and a Ph.D. in earth and environmental sciences in 1983, all from GSAS. Born on May 2, 1949, in NYC, Bogen moved with his family to Port Washington, N.Y., when he was young, and there he began a lifelong love of sailing and nature. He taught geology at the University of Michigan before moving in 1989 to Durham, where he worked in geological consulting. Bogen volunteered at Habitat for Humanity and the Durham Public Library and helped to found the Lerner Jewish Community Day School in Durham. He is survived by his wife, Emily Klein BC'78, GSAS'89; son, Jeremy; daughter, Alexis; and brother, Timothy.



Nicholas L. Bogen '77



Robert L. Gnaizda '57, Civil Rights and Public Interest Attorney

Robert L. Gnaizda '57, a prominent public interest attorney who advocated for social justice and civil rights, spent five decades fighting on behalf of the underdog. During his career he took on myriad powerful opponents, including Southern counties that tried to disenfranchise Black voters, employers who discriminated in hiring and banks that redlined neighborhoods to prevent minorities from obtaining loans or mortgages.

"Bob Gnaizda was, in my opinion, the most imaginative, creative and consequential public interest lawyer of his generation in the United States," said J. Anthony Kline, presiding justice of the California Court of Appeal in San Francisco, who, with Gnaizda and two others, formed a pioneering public interest law firm in California in 1971 that won a legal battle that forced the San Francisco Police and Fire Departments to end discriminatory hiring and promotion practices.

Gnaizda, who graduated from Stuyvesant H.S. and earned a law degree from Yale in 1960, died in San Francisco on July 11, 2020. He was 83.

Rebecca Kee '05, who was Gnaizda's deputy and became his lifelong friend, described him to *CCT* as "brilliantly smart, quick-thinking and focused on his work, to the exclusion

of pleasantries and small talk

That is, unless you're lucky enough to find yourself with him in a quiet, uncrowded place and you happen to ask about what exactly he was doing in Mississippi during the 1960s.

"Suddenly his eyes are twinkling as he tells you his best stories, the ones of ingratiating himself with suspicious officials through friendly baseball trivia or his tale of faking a federal order to hold hearings in the deep south about the mistreatment of Black voters. To most of us it's history come to life, but to Bob it's just tales of the good old days, hiding people on the floor of his back seat so that he could stir up legal trouble to shake down the powers-that-be."

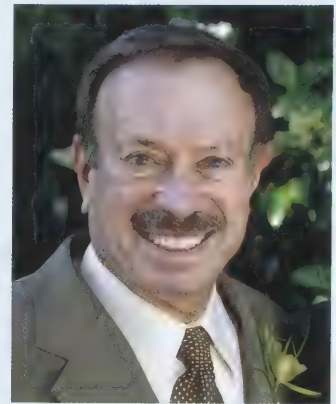
Born in Brooklyn on August 6, 1936, Gnaizda's passion for civil rights was sparked when he was young. Growing up in Brownsville, then a tough Jewish neighborhood, he defended friends against neighborhood bullies, and later watched the abuse to which Jackie Robinson was subjected from some fans and even fellow players at Ebbets Field as he broke baseball's color barrier with the Brooklyn Dodgers.

As a young lawyer, he collected testimony on how white officers were

preventing Black people from voting in Clay County, Miss., that helped influence the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The following year, during the era of Cesar Chavez, he co-founded California Rural Legal Assistance and took class action cases on behalf of farmworkers forced to work for low wages in poor conditions.

In 1973 Gnaizda co-founded Public Advocates in San Francisco to discourage financial institutions from discriminating against Black and Hispanic home buyers. He served as deputy secretary of health and welfare for the State of California under Gov. Jerry Brown 1975-76.

In 1993 he co-founded the Greenlining Institute, bringing together a diverse group of community leaders to fight against redlining and for the economic empowerment of communities of color. He later was general counsel for the National Asian American Coalition and the National Diversity Coalition, fighting on behalf of universal access to affordable housing, small business loans and equal opportunity. Gnaizda was interviewed for the Oscar-winning documentary *Inside Job* (2010) about his efforts in the mid-2000s to warn the Federal



Reserve of the impending subprime mortgage crisis.

"Bob saw the world as it is, yet he moved through it as if he could just mold it to his will and forge new pathways toward justice and equality for all," said Kee, his former deputy.

Gnaizda is survived by his wife, Claudia Viek; sons from a previous marriage, Josh and Matt; and one granddaughter.

—Alex Sachare '71

Read more about Gnaizda's and Kee's work together in *CCT* Online's "Like Minds" Q&A, "Talking Social Advocacy with Robert Gnaizda '57 and Rebecca Kee '05": bit.ly/31FDHp0.

Donations may be made to Habitat for Humanity of Durham, the Lerner Jewish Community Day School or Judea Reform Congregation.

1981

Harlan H. Simon, financial executive, Chappaqua, N.Y., on June 22, 2020. Simon earned an M.B.A. from Penn's Wharton School of Business and was a foreign exchange trader at Bank America International. As an undergrad, he was the conductor of the Marching Band and a member of Nacoms. He supported the Marching Band Alumni Board and maintained lifelong friendships with classmates, band members and Nacoms. Dennis Klainberg '84, a fellow band member, recalls Simon as "superbly non-musical, lanky, intelligent, confident, droll

and very tall ... towering over a sea of musicians, just waving his hands with great joy and truly no idea of a downbeat! Encouraging and enthusiastic about making the band a fun refuge, Harlan was nonetheless an exemplar of hard work and dedication, managing to keep up an internship at Citibank during his senior year and forging a successful career in finance." Simon is survived by his wife, Eden M. Platt; sons, Nathaniel and Jacob; daughter, Rebecca; father, Morton; and sister, Leslie.

2012

Alexander Aurrichio, professional athlete, Dix Hills, N.Y., on June 8, 2020. During his four years at Columbia, he was a starter on both the soccer and baseball teams.



Alexander Aurrichio '12

In soccer, he earned the starting goalkeeper role his first semester and maintained it through his senior year. As a sophomore, he played every minute of every match, recording 76 saves that included a 9-save performance in a shutout against nationally ranked

Dartmouth. In baseball, Aurrichio was a two-time All-Ivy League selection, including a first-team honoree as a sophomore after slugging a team-high 13 home runs. He finished his career third on Columbia's all-time home runs list with 23, and his 13 home runs in 2010 still rank third in single-season history. His baseball coach, Brett Boretti, described Aurrichio as "a huge personality that everyone fed off of and enjoyed being around," and his soccer coach, Kevin Anderson, said, "When he walked into a room you knew it, and he made you feel it deep into your soul." Aurrichio moved to Australia in 2014 to pursue a career in football and played for several teams, most recently the Waratah Football Club in the Northern Territory Football League. He is survived by his father, Louis; mother, Jill; and siblings.

—Alex Sachare '71

*caption*this!



CARTOON CAPTION CONTEST CONTINUES

We got so many responses for our previous caption contests that we're keeping the creativity going! This installment is by editorial cartoonist R.J. Matson '85.

The winning caption will be published in the Winter 2020–21 issue.

Any College student or College alum may enter; no more than three entries per person. Submit your idea, along with your full name and CC class year, to cct@columbia.edu by Tuesday, December 1.



CORE TO COMMENCEMENT COLUMBIA COLLEGE



Over 1,300 Columbia College students on financial aid saw summer employment and paid internships disappear due to the global pandemic. In response, Columbia College waived their expected work contribution so they could continue their education this fall, without financial disruption.

This one-time grant aided our students with more than \$4 million and was made possible in large part by the philanthropic support of College alumni and parents.

Let's continue our support for deserving students.
Learn more about the Core to Commencement campaign at
college.columbia.edu/campaign.

Core *Stories*

The Core has been a huge part of my everyday life. Whenever I read fine literature or evaluate political events, I do so keeping in mind lessons that I learned during the Core. I cannot express enough what a profound impact it has had.

ILAN HARTSTEIN '85

Columbia taught me how to continue exploring life through a lens of uncertainty and curiosity about what is it that makes the world what it is today.

MAYA JOYCE MATTHEWS '20

When I left Columbia I knew my values and where I would draw the line on issues of ethics, social behavior and morals. Thank you, Columbia College and Core Curriculum!

FLOYD HOLLISTER '58

The Core taught me that life's big questions will continue to persist through the ages [...] those pearls of wisdom continue to inform my decisions today, for which I am eternally grateful.

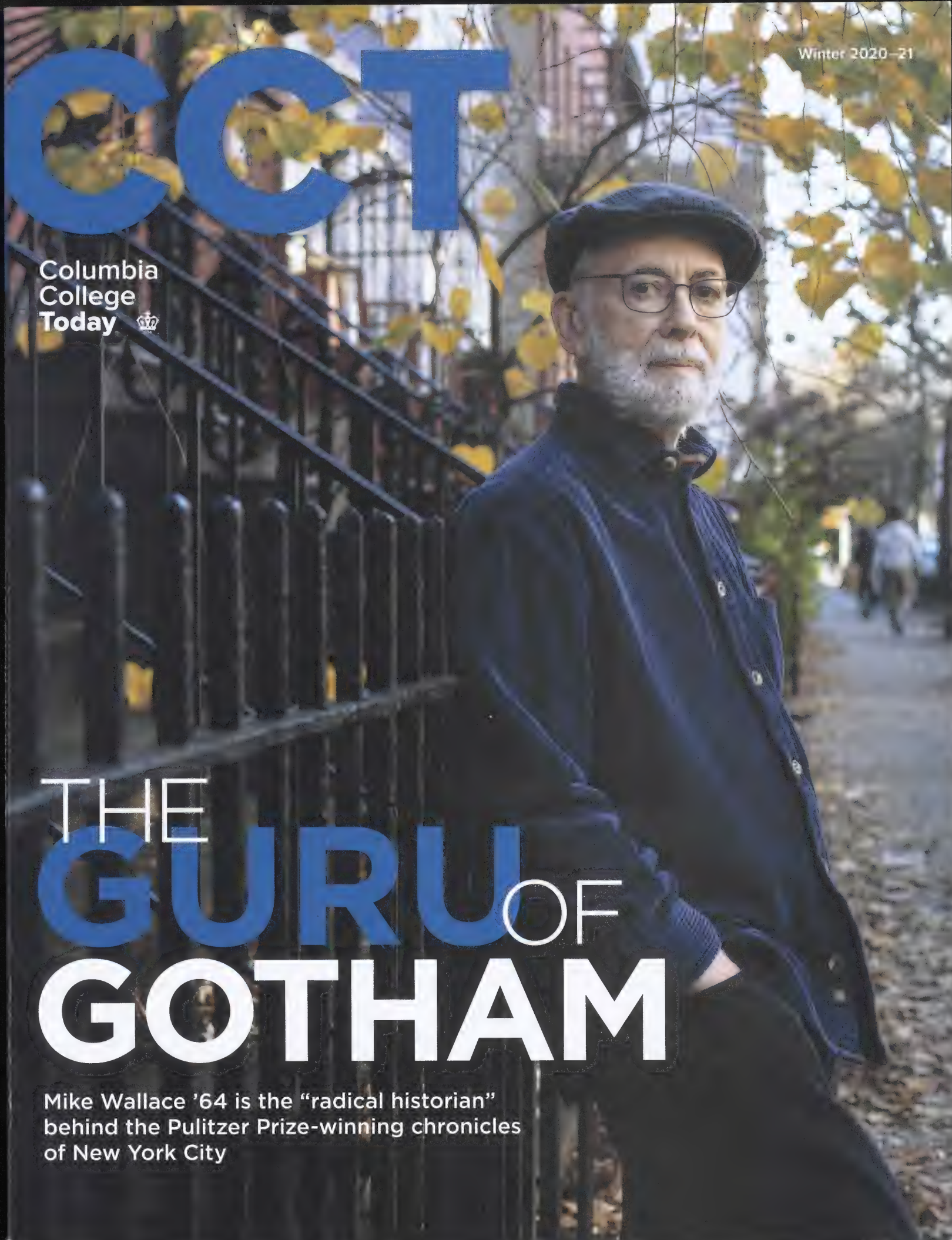
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How'd the Core Shape You?

Share a favorite Core work or personal reflection and be part of our community memory project honoring the Core Curriculum's Centennial.


Submit online or email us, and join the #CoreCelebration.

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Winter 2020–21

CCT

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THE GURU OF GOTHAM

Mike Wallace '64 is the "radical historian"
behind the Pulitzer Prize-winning chronicles
of New York City



CORE TO COMMENCEMENT

COLUMBIA COLLEGE



Columbia College's distinctive academic experience is best achieved with a student body that is diverse in every way. Thanks to Columbia's need-based, no-loan financial aid commitment, we can ensure that classes comprise students of all backgrounds, experiences and perspectives. In fact, more than 50 percent of Columbia College students receive financial assistance.

Thousands of alumni, parents and friends have already contributed to the Core to Commencement campaign, helping to fulfill the College's promise to fully meet each student's demonstrated financial need, whether now or in the generations to come.

Learn more and join the effort: college.columbia.edu/campaign.

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Cover: Photograph by Jörg Meyer

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The Alum Who Wrote the Greatest Movie of All Time

Herman J. Mankiewicz CC 1917 gets his due in the Oscar-hyped *Mank*, starring Gary Oldman.
>> bit.ly/3mVWFS0



Teaching Debate — and Confidence — to the Incarcerated

Joshua Morrison '07 brings his College experience to the Rikers Debate Project.
>> bit.ly/3g7IOqI



Art in the Time of Pandemic

How can art sustain us in difficult times? Two alumni experts offer lessons from plagues past.
>> bit.ly/3fxuCVw

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Message from the Dean

Considering Our College Connectedness

The turnover of a year often inspires reflection on the year that's just passed and on the possibilities of the year ahead. There can be a tendency to think about oneself — how we want to improve, what goals we'll set or how we might change our daily routines. These aspirations often become magnified when viewed through the lens of 12 months, 52 weeks, 365 days. At 2020's end, you might have found yourself thinking less about yourself and more about others, our interconnectedness having become more pronounced through the events of the year: a global pandemic, a surging protest movement in support of Black citizens, and a turbulent and divisive presidential election that revealed a fracture in our country and, therefore, in our collective future.

We have all been reminded that our individual fates are inextricably connected to those of our family members and loved ones, our neighbors and colleagues, and even strangers. The distinction of a Columbia College education is its ambition to teach students about the interconnectedness of human life and the common experiences we share. The Core Curriculum has long sought to investigate the enduring struggles, joys and concerns of humankind, and, more recently, the Global Columbia Collaboratory has brought together students and faculty from around the world to discuss and develop solutions for pressing global problems, from hunger to clean water.

The isolation that has defined our days since last March has had the disconcerting effect of separating us from one another in physical space, while reminding us of the value of human contact. I know I'm not alone in my longing to see students milling around College Walk; or to hear colleagues' voices drifting down the hallway in Hamilton. The most difficult challenge I faced as dean this past year was having to implement policies and procedures that changed the very nature of how we — students, faculty, administrators, alumni and families — interact and relate. While some have adjusted well to the changes, others have found them difficult, and understandably so.

Many students have told us that their academic experience has been better than expected — we have our tremendously commit-

ted faculty to thank for that — but I also know that, because of the kinetic nature of learning and socialization, nothing can fully replace the in-person experience. As the frenzied first stages of the pandemic subside, the days of seeing one another again are slowly coming into focus, even though they are still many months away. With that picture in mind, I have begun to think about the lessons we're learning from Covid-19 and how we'll apply them so that we may reap some benefit from the struggles of this time.

- Though the pandemic descended upon us quickly and was unrelenting in its havoc, the College was more agile in its response than I thought possible. This exciting discovery informs future possibilities of what we can achieve when not under the duress of a pandemic.
- The Core Curriculum is the bedrock of the College's identity and academic experience, and we must strengthen its purpose, inclusivity and impact in this time of turmoil and isolation. We've begun important work with a diverse, multi-generational committee of students and alumni who are charged with thinking about how the Core will evolve and continue to respond to the timeless challenges of human existence.
- While the richness of the College experience is most evident in face-to-face encounters, it's become clear that technology can and should have a larger role in our academic experience. Finding ways to sustain technology's unique benefits post-pandemic is an important opportunity for us.

The greatest lesson I've learned from the pandemic thus far has been the staggering commitment of our community. Faculty and staff have worked relentlessly to field the innumerable curveballs thrown our way during the rapid transition to remote life, learning and work. Students have shared with us the ways they have expanded their mindsets and resourcefulness to adapt as best they can to the demands of this time. These new and honed skills will benefit them for decades to come.

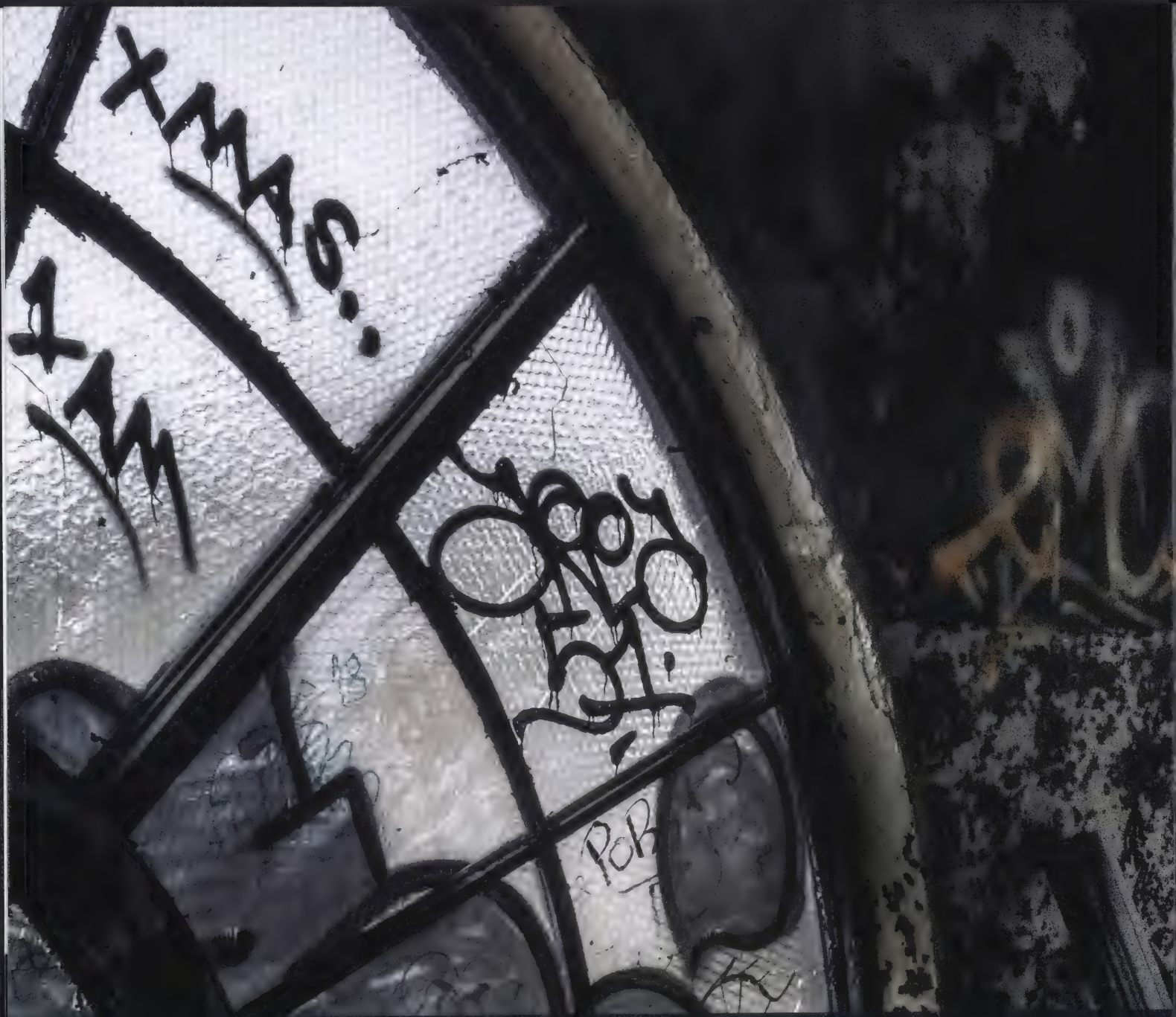
These months have not been without frustrations, though. This has been a trying time in all of our lives. But the resilience and fortitude shown by so many reminds me of something I often say: Columbia is defined by its people, and those people are its most important asset. There is imperfection in our humanity, but we share a commitment that is unlike any other I've experienced.

I wish you and your loved ones good health and much warmth in 2021.

James J. Valentini
Dean



TIFFANY THOMAS



Abandonment Issues

Steven Boss '71, SW'76, BUS'78 is a New York-based photographer whose specialties include shooting locations in various states of abandonment. "This is the top, top level of a

double-decker movie palace in New Jersey, just outside the projection room," Boss says. "I love the half-moon windows

and the Dali-esque folded window, the rust and dust on the radiators, the hanging metal, the flotsam on the floor and the view way out yonder. This area was relatively spic and span; the path up was another story — dark, dangerous, circuitous — a virtual minefield. It can be a challenge shooting under adverse conditions, but it's such a pleasure to create images of grace, beauty and serenity out of the chaos."

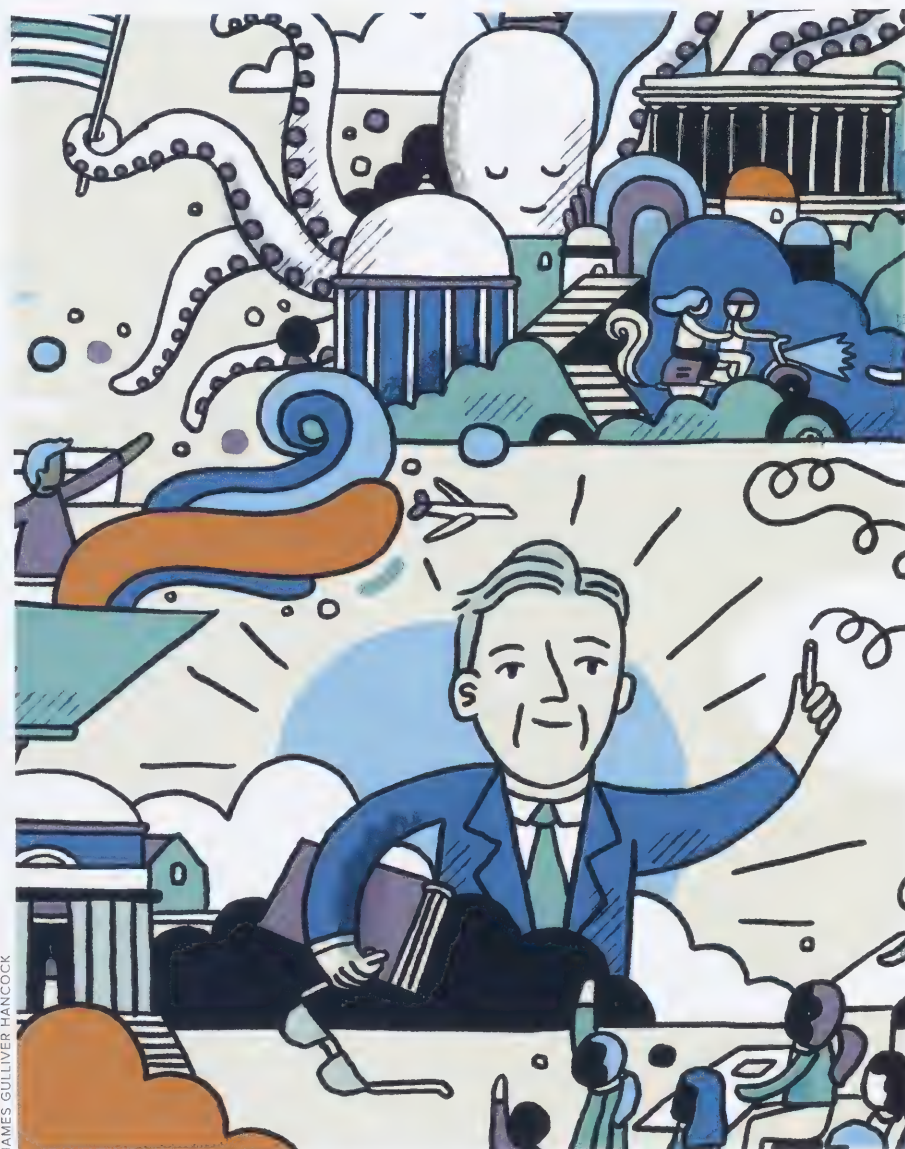
CCT Online Extra

More of Boss's favorite abandoned places are at college.columbia.edu/cct.

the **Big Picture**



Letters to the Editor



JAMES GULLIVER HANCOCK

A Treasure Trove

I took the Core from September 1960 to May 1962. I greatly enjoyed the feature article “Your Core Stories” in the Fall 2020 issue. If I had been able to contribute, I would have noted that although I finished the course 58 years ago, I still have my Contemporary Civilization books, which have come with me through all these decades and I don’t know how many moves. The CCT article made me pull them from the shelf and crack them open. What a treasure trove. I am interested all over again and will be rereading materials that no doubt have been the basis of my thinking, and that now look like old friends.

Stuart Sieger '64
Melville, N.Y.

[Editor’s note: Good news for Sieger — and anyone else who’s interested! Core Stories can still be submitted; go to core100.columbia.edu/community.]

Revelatory Rousseau

The Fall 2020 issue’s celebration of “Your Core Stories” resonated deeply. In my experience, *The Social Contract* by Jean-Jacques Rousseau proved to be the most illuminating piece of literature as I assimilated into society, finished law school, raised a family in a medium-sized western community, and experienced the full gamut of successes and failures of our American social landscape.

I still have *Introduction to Contemporary Civilization in the West, Vol. I* (1946), which contains this and other writings that were central to my experience with the Core Curriculum. Thank you for bringing back so many memories, along with my appreciation for Columbia College.

Don B. Allen '58
Salt Lake City

An 11th Win To Savor

Thank you for your excellent article “10 Great Moments in Lions Football” (Fall 2020). Ah, too many memories

I suggest that you consider an 11th, the Lions victory at Rutgers, 35–28 on Thanksgiving Day, November 30, 1963.

The game was historic in that it was an Archie Roberts '65 gem, but more so in that it was postponed from Saturday, November 23, in memoriam of President John F. Kennedy, who had been assassinated the day before. (Both Columbia’s and Rutgers’s stats incorrectly show the game date as on November 23 instead of November 30.) We were ready for Rutgers and took a 24–6 halftime lead. Seeming to think the game was over, and almost tasting the turkey and cranberries, we let the Scarlet Knights dominate the second half

Contact Us

CCT welcomes letters from readers about articles in the magazine but cannot print or personally respond to all letters received. Letters express the views of the writers and not CCT, the College or the University. All letters are subject to editing for space, clarity and CCT style. Please submit Letters to the Editor online:

college.columbia.edu/cct/contact-us.

and fell behind 28–24. Archie and captain Ed Malmstrom '65 mustered the very tired Lions, and we went ahead to stay on an end-zone, sideline pass with minutes left. The Rutgers fans were stunned. I savored the post-game Thanksgiving dinner all the more at my aunt's home in Flatbush.

A couple of notes: President Kennedy had attended the Lions game at Harvard on October 16, 1963, and the Harvard band played "Hail to the Chief." The 1963 season was the last where many players were required to play offense, defense and special teams, so Archie, Ed and most of the team played a full 60 minutes [on game days]. Our team ultimately went 4–4–1 that year.

Bob Donohue '65
Los Gatos, Calif.

Pop Quiz

As Columbia football's official scorer for 30-plus years, I could easily identify another dozen truly exciting games for the article

"10 Great Moments in Lions Football" — most recently the kickoff return during Columbia's last home game in 2018 that led to a victory with no time remaining.

Also, the entry on the November 24, 1956, game did not include details, including the key play that won the game for Lou Little. Hint: Claude Benham '57 threw the go-ahead touchdown in the last minute of play. Guess who was the receiver?

Ronald Szczypkowski '58
Rye Brook, N.Y.

A Singular Touchdown

Thank you for "10 Great Moments in Lions Football" (Fall 2020). I was a year too late to experience that win over undefeated Army, but reading about it jolted a memory of one of my most elating moments of watching football; this is a personal memory of a singular event in a close friend's football career.

Don McLean '51 played center for four years in high school and three years at

Columbia. In Don's senior year, Lou Little switched him to tight end. Although he had a good season as a receiver, he never scored a touchdown.

It was the last game of the season, November 25, 1950, and Don's final game, played at Brown. With a comfortable lead for the Lions — and apparently with Don's never having scored in mind — the last series of plays was three passes to Don. All went incomplete. On fourth and long, with the game clock almost done, Don caught a pass on the 15-yard line and was immediately hit. Listing at a 45-degree angle, his legs continued to pump from sheer determination, and he managed to fall over the goal line for his first, last and only touchdown in eight years of football. His team and the few Columbia spectators gave him a standing ovation.

Nearly 70 years later I can recall the vicarious thrill of seeing a friend end his football career with a memorable goal.

Irvin Herman '52
Oakland, Calif.



INTERVIEW COLLEGE APPLICANTS

All interviews will be conducted virtually this year, so you can meet applicants from all over the world. Represent Columbia and play a meaningful role in the admissions process. Join ARC today!



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Superlative Scholars

A pair of prestigious scholarships went to two alumni late last term.

Santiago Tobar Potes '20 made national headlines in November when he became the first Latino DACA recipient to be awarded a Rhodes Scholarship. As a member of the 2021 cohort, he'll head to the University of Oxford in the



fall to pursue an M.St. (master of studies) in global and imperial history. Potes, who hails from Miami, graduated with degrees in East Asian studies and Medieval and Renaissance studies.

Miranda Li '17 was named a member of the Schwarzman Scholars Class of 2022. Scholarship recipients pursue a one-year master's at Tsinghua University in Beijing, focusing on public policy, economics and business, or international



studies; they also attend lectures, travel and develop a better understanding of China through cultural immersion.

Giving Day

Columbians worldwide came together on October 28 for Columbia Giving Day — a 24-hour online fundraising event — making 19,173 gifts for a total of nearly \$24.2 million to support University schools, programs and initiatives.

The Columbia College community contributed 5,356 gifts and roughly \$6.46 million to the University as a whole. Among all the causes at the University, the College raised \$3.9 million from more than 2,300 contributions. This gener-



JOHN D. AND CATHERINE T. MACARTHUR FOUNDATION

HIGH HONOR FOR HARTMAN: English and comparative literature professor Saidiya Hartman has been appointed a University Professor, the highest rank that Columbia bestows on faculty. Hartman, a scholar of African-American and American literature and cultural history, and a 2019 MacArthur fellow, has taught at the University since 2007. Her "immersive and unflinching portraits of Black life have forever altered the ways in which we think and speak about enslavement and its invidious legacy in this country," President Lee C. Bollinger said. "She brings a painstaking and unrelenting focus to retrieving and telling the lost stories of the dispossessed."

ous support will ensure the College has a steady source of funding to fulfill its commitment to full-need financial aid and need-blind admissions, essential programming such as career and academic advising, and community-building events.

The College also won several giving challenges throughout the day, including the Alumni Participation Challenge for having the highest alumni participation percentage of all the schools, and the Overall Dollar Challenge for raising the most dollars.

Leadership News

Mary C. Boyce will become the next University provost, effective July 1, President Lee C. Bollinger announced in December. Boyce has been dean of Columbia Engineering for seven years. "We are, indeed, fortunate to have someone with Dean Boyce's combination of administrative capacity, academic accomplishment and deep knowledge of Columbia to assume this role, which is always so critical to the University's future but is especially so at this remarkable moment," Bollinger said.

Meanwhile, the University president's own tenure has been extended; his term will now last until the close of the 2023 academic year. The Board of Trustees also has a new member: Shirley Wang BUS'93, founder and CEO of fiberglass door company Plastpro.

Sherwin Award

The Gerald E. Sherwin Young Alumni Service Award, which honors individuals who have demonstrated exceptional service to the College's young alumni community, was presented to **Kevin Zhang '14** in a virtual celebration on December 17. Zhang's volunteerism includes serving on the Young Leaders Council, a leadership giving society under the umbrella of the Columbia College Fund that also stages events for its members; being a founding member of the YLC Bay Area chapter; and serving as a Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors member. Additionally, Zhang spearheads the Columbia in Tech group, which builds relationships among alumni working in technology.

The Gamester Who Went All In

By Thomas Vinciguerra '85, JRN'86, GSAS'90

Oswald Jacoby CC 1922 won his first poker game at 8. Drawing three kings to a pair of sevens, to complete a full house, he walked away with 60 cents. Nearly 70 years later, he crowed about his childhood coup: "That started me off on my career," he said.

And what a career it was! When he died in 1984, Jacoby was among the best-known gamesters in the world — poker, backgammon, canasta, whist, chess, pinochle, craps, gin rummy, you name it. With fiendish computational ability, a phenomenal memory and seemingly limitless energy, he could belly up to a green baize table and take you to the cleaners. "There have always been people better than me at *some* game," Jacoby told *Sports Illustrated* in 1978. "But I am still the best player of *all*

games in the world today. There's no one around who can beat me."

Jacoby's specialty was bridge, and his myriad approaches and successes made him a legend. He won 27 North American championships and published more than 10,000 syndicated bridge columns over 34 years. They were required reading for a generation of postwar suburbanites looking to make friends with their new neighbors — veterans and homemakers who barely knew a trump from a dummy.

His statistics speak for themselves. In only four years (1958–62) Jacoby overtook Charles Goren as the bridge world's leader in master points, as awarded by the American Contract Bridge League. In 1963 he became the first player in history to win more than 1,000 master points in a single game. Four years later he won his

10,000th master point, something never before achieved.

The Brooklyn-born Jacoby was always in a hustling hurry. At 2, he corrected his aunt's wording of nursery rhymes. During WWI military training (he joined at 15 by lying about his age), he played poker with his fellow grunts. By the time he arrived on campus in 1918, he had won \$2,000 — enough to pay many of his College expenses. While still an undergraduate, he triumphed in a chess match against U.S. champion Frank Marshall. At 21, he became the youngest licensed actuary in New York State history, and at 28, he turned full-time gamer.

Jacoby reckoned that his talent for chance and numbers (he could multiply 647,992 by 435,638 in his head) could yield him fame and fortune. He once quoted Horatius Cocles, who heroically defended Rome in 509 B.C.: "How can man die better than facing fearful odds?" Jacoby tartly responded, "It may be a good way to die, but I can't think of a worse way to gamble."

Soon enough, Jacoby set his focus on bridge. His timing was perfect. In 1925, Harold Stirling Vanderbilt, of the wealthy Vanderbilt family, devised contract bridge, a variation on the original auction variety. With his new bidding and scoring system, as well as other features, Vanderbilt made an already popular pastime even more compelling and challenging. Contract soon became the bridge standard, and Jacoby seized on the opening. He emerged victorious in many tournaments, making his rep in the 1931–32 Culbertson-Lenz competition, still known as the "Bridge Battle of the Century." By 1933, *Vanity Fair* was calling him "one of America's most brilliant players."

Jacoby was not merely a superb player; he was also an innovator. He is immortalized with the "Jacoby Transfer," whereby a lead bidder could strengthen his partner's weak hand. "He thought up bids for hands that had not been used," Ronald Haack



Games king Oswald Jacoby CC 1922 playing canasta in 1949.

MARTHA HOLMES / THE LIFE PICTURE COLLECTION VIA GETTY IMAGES

'65, a computer programmer turned bridge teacher, told *CCT*. "He thought up arrays for better suits." Haack added, "He was famous for being able to tell what was in people's hands. And the only explanation for that is that he was psychic."

A lightning-fast competitor, Jacoby was lightning-fast all around. He married Mary Zita McHale a week after meeting her. While he was playing in the National Open Pairs bridge championship in Richmond, Va., on December 7, 1941, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Jacoby found

a substitute, quit the game and enlisted in Naval intelligence to help crack Axis codes. In 1950, when communist troops invaded South Korea, he got a call from Washington, D.C. "We need a computer in the Far East," the voice on the other end said.

"Buy one," Jacoby replied.

"We can't buy one. You're the one," said the voice. A week later, Jacoby was a counterintelligence agent in Japan.

In his prime, Jacoby was a cottage industry. His one-dollar book *How to Win at Canasta* was the fifth best-selling volume of

1949, and he lent his name to a brand of mechanical pencil that was used to record points in that game. His name also adorned a mass-market version of backgammon produced by Pressman Toys. He even lectured at MIT on probability theory. His many admirers spoke of "The Wizardry of Ozzie."

Indeed, the wizard was also a philosopher — in his case, of the never-ending wagering that is life. "There is no such thing as playing any game for mere joy," Jacoby said. "If you don't have something to lose, you tend not to care. It spoils the game."

Student Spotlight

Blessing Utomi '22

This academic year, students are studying remotely from locations around the world. To keep our community connected, the College launched "Columbia College Chronicles"; the online series gives students the opportunity to share what they're learning not only in their classes, but also about themselves during the pandemic. Utomi is a theater and education double major from Houston; the below is adapted from the original interview posted on the College website. To read more Chronicles, go to college.columbia.edu/news.

What do you like to do outside of class? I'm an intern with the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, helping a lot with its virtual programming for prospective students. That's been really fun — we just started virtual tours. I also help run our YouTube Q&A chats, which is two students talking about their College experiences — that's really popular. So I still get to meet lots of prospective students and families and also stay in contact with my Columbia friends and my friends in the Admissions Office.

Outside of Columbia, I love to run; I started in high school. I think everyone has tapped into at-home workouts during this time! I also love ballet — I take classes through Barnard, and that's been a nice way to stay active.

What is something you've learned about yourself during the pandemic? I've learned that I like structure a lot. Even being virtual I like to have processing time and ordering my tasks in chunks. So during my day I set goals and to-do lists for myself, to have some sort of productivity during the day. Of course, some days are still for Netflix from bed!

What's the first thing you'll do when you're back on the Morningside Heights campus?

I want to check on Brownie's, the café underneath Avery Library; it's my favorite place to go for breakfast. They're just really nice people! They knew my order as soon as I got there and were really sweet. I also miss College Walk and sitting on Low Steps, just taking in the sun and everything.

What's been your favorite class at the College, and why?

This term I'm taking quite a few interesting classes, but my favorite so far is "Shakespeare in America," taught by Professor James Shapiro '77. It's really cool because it's more about the performance history of Shakespeare's plays, how they've been interpreted in America and how they've been applied to topics like the Civil War, gender, race, conspiracies



COURTESY BLESSING UTOMI '22

and politics. The class is always interesting because you can see how Shakespeare has had a huge impact on American culture, and you can see the intricate connections between the texts we read.

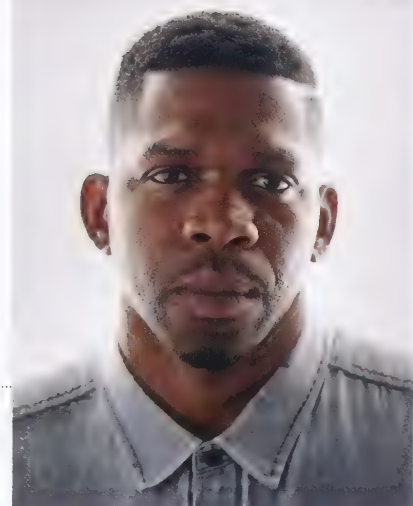
What keeps you close to Columbia while remote?

I think my job has been the biggest thing, because a lot of our work is training tour guides and giving info sessions. That's been really nice for meeting new Columbians and staying in contact with work friends. We text each other about funny things that happen and have meetings to still see each other's faces. It's nice to have those small moments together.

LookWho'sTalking

Christopher P. Wolfe SOA'18

Artist-in-Residence, Eric H. Holder Jr. Initiative for Civil and Political Rights



Your background is incredibly varied! Tell me about your journey to becoming a writer.

The first time I wrote creatively was when I was deployed with the Army to Iraq, in 2003. I had reached what felt like a breaking point from the pressure of being in a combat environment. Fortunately, a group of my fellow soldiers noticed the decline in my mental health and started inviting me to join them when they got together to play their guitars during downtime. Our time together was so inspiring and uplifting that I gave a local Iraqi contractor money to buy me a guitar on his next trip to Baghdad, so I could learn how to play. I started to write my own music, and I soon began to write lyrics. And with this experience of bringing something into the world of my own making, I felt like I had suddenly accessed a pressure release valve, a salve that led to healing.

I eventually left the Army, went to business school at Duke, and began working on Wall Street at Merrill Lynch in September 2008. Being there during the

financial crisis proved to be very challenging; to get through it, I returned to what had healed me while I was in Iraq: writing, creating, expressing myself on the page. A lot of that writing focused on the inequities and disparities I saw and the role I played in creating them.

I wrote poems and short stories, and began working on a novel. I joined veterans' writing groups and did all that I could to immerse myself in the creative process with the little spare time I had. I read many books; one that I fell in love with was *Slapboxing with Jesus* by SOA professor Victor LaValle [SOA'98]. After having spent years in leadership positions, surrounded by very few people who looked like me, Victor's voice and stories made me feel seen and heard. I sought him out, and I found him one evening doing a reading in my Brooklyn neighborhood. I introduced myself, and we spoke for at least two hours that night. Victor helped me to see the different ways I could nurture my voice, including pursuing an M.F.A. So after a lot of discussions with my wife, I decided to pursue writing full time.

How did you become involved with the Holder Initiative? What inspired you to combine your creative work with a social justice project such as this? If you go to the "About" page on the Holder Initiative's website, you'll find a quote from the former attorney general: "We do ourselves and our great nation a grave disservice ... when we trade the noisy discord of honest, tough and vigorous debate for the quiet prejudice of inaction and cold silence of consent."

This quote speaks directly to one of my primary goals as an artist and teacher: to encourage people of diverse backgrounds and conflicting views to see and hear each other better, and to develop a deeper capac-

ity for empathy. This ideal can sometimes be uncomfortable and contentious, but it is important that we create time and space for Columbia's students to have these interactions. On the other side of their college experience, they will be the ones occupying spaces of power and influence to create positive change. I'm incredibly proud and humbled to be the Holder Initiative's inaugural artist-in-residence, and grateful for the opportunity to bring more awareness to the challenges faced by many brothers and sisters affected by mass incarceration.

What's the role of artist-in-residence? Do you have a typical day?

Honestly, since the pandemic hit, I have been looking for a typical day, but I haven't found it. There has been a lot of volatility in my "routine," so I try to adapt and stay flexible. I have three kids whose schools open and close depending upon the changes and risk factors related to Covid-19. I have a dog that doesn't wear a watch. Having said that, as the artist-in-residence, I dedicate the first part of my day to creating art. I can usually find a focused, quiet time to write around 4:30 a.m., before my kids are up.

Once they are settled in, I am engaged with the class that I teach on campus and at Rikers Island, "Incarcerated Yet Inspired." It is a cross-genre writing seminar offered through the Undergraduate Creative Writing Department, that focuses on literary works that explore the experiences and perspectives of individuals who have been ostracized, incarcerated and isolated from their communities. When I am teaching at Rikers, I spend part of my day planning and coordinating with an enthusiastic group of Columbia students who volunteer as tutors for the class. I also spend my days engaged with the rest of the Holder Initiative



Wolfe in Iraq, December 2003.

PHOTOS COURTESY CHRISTOPHER P. WOLFE SOA'18

team, to develop events that address civil rights and social justice issues. A couple of examples are the fireside chats I've facilitated — one last summer with Tony Award-winning director Kenny Leon, and another in December with formerly incarcerated writer and current Teachers College student Robert Wright.

What's the best part of your job?

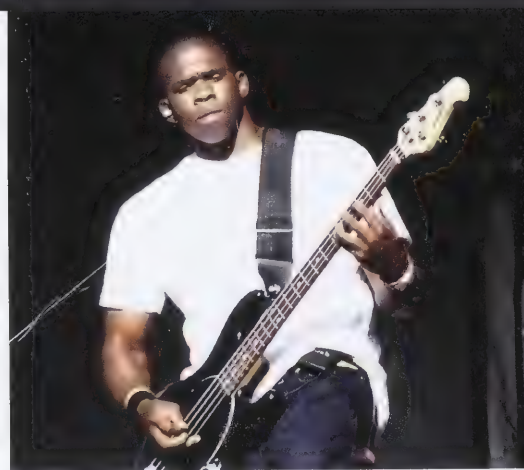
I have the opportunity to create spaces for our students to show up as their full selves, spaces where they can embrace and express parts of their identity that they often suppress due to a variety of factors and societal pressures. I've had conversations with students about their career choices, their classes, their writing, their parents. And in each of those interactions, I try to be present and share whatever I can from my life experiences that might be relevant. A very special moment was when one of my Columbia students came up to me at the end of the semester, thanked me and told me that I was the first Black male professor that he'd had and that it really meant something special to have me teaching his class. I think it takes a certain level of vulnerability to express oneself in such a way; I genuinely find pleasure in creating spaces where that can happen.

What about your Rikers Island teaching experience has been most meaningful for you?

I was raised in Fayetteville, N.C., in the '80s and '90s. During my adolescent

years, I wasn't aware of the terms "mass incarceration" and "public school to prison pipeline." However, I was aware of the horrendous machinations ushering many of the kids of color I went to school with into the criminal legal system. And I usually felt the system's presence when these kids would suddenly disappear from my classrooms and surrounding neighborhoods and never be seen again.

I share this because when I was presented with the opportunity to teach inside Rikers Island, my first thought was: I've spent most of my life trying to ensure I never got caught up in the system, and now I am being asked to walk in willingly? I sought counsel from my family and mentors, mostly people of color, and what I consistently heard from them was: Our people, trapped inside those jails and prison, *need to see you*. Based on the feedback I have received from the men and women I've taught at Rikers, this sentiment is true. However, what has been most surprising to me is realizing how much I needed to see them. There are so many brilliant, beautiful minds and resilient, warm souls locked up in our country's jails and prisons because, for generations, structural racism starved their communities of the necessary resources for them to have a chance to live up to their fullest potential at the outset. Going into Rikers has enabled me to see beyond statistics and intellectual exercises that ponder the fate of our brothers' and sisters' existence. I was



Wolfe at a July 4th concert in Vail, Colo., in 2005.

afforded an opportunity to get down to the work of reclaiming our collective humanity and imagining and building a liberated community. I have learned with and from all of my students on the inside.

What's one thing about you that would surprise readers?

Well, I skipped over a few things earlier when I was recounting my journey as a writer. When I came back from Iraq, I didn't exactly go straight to business school. I still had three years of military service left and during that time, those three guys who taught me to play guitar and I formed a band. We cut an EP, gigged all over Colorado and donated the money we raised to nonprofits that support soldiers coming back with injuries from Iraq and Afghanistan, such as the Wounded Warrior Project. I guess I share this because as I look back on my life, I see clear evidence of all the good that can happen when we show up for each other in a positive way.

John Jay Associates Founded

A VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION has been established to help Columbia College expand her role in American liberal education.

The new society, The John Jay Associates of Columbia College, is named for the distinguished alumnus of the Class of 1764 who was the nation's first Chief Justice. The Associates are alumni and friends of the College who seek to assist it through sizable financial aid.

"This core of distinguished alumni and friends of the College," Dean John G. Palfrey noted, "has been established at a time when national circumstances have produced a critical turning point for Columbia as for other great private institutions of higher learning. To a large extent," the dean said, "Columbia College's continued growth as a pioneer and a leader among American colleges will depend on its ability to convey to its alumni and friends a sense that it deserves their support and that it urgently needs their support. Particularly," he added, "there must be cre-

ated an awareness of the College's need for substantial assistance on a regular and continuing basis."

Jerome A. Newman '17, is chairman of the Committee of Sponsors of the Associates. Other members of the Committee are: Frank W. Demuth '14, Benjamin J. Buttenwieser '19, Shepard L. Alexander '21, Shepard S. Silberblatt '22, Richard Rodgers '23, John T. Cahill '24, Theodore C. Garfield '24, Ralph T. Heynfeldt '27, Harold F. McGuire '27, and Gavin K. MacBain '32. Oscar Hammerstein 2nd '16, who died on August 23, 1960, was

also a member of the Committee. The headquarters of the Associates are located in the Columbia University Club, 4 West 43rd Street, N.Y.C.

The present membership numbers 103 alumni and friends of the College.

"For the successful launching of the Associates," Dean Palfrey said, "a great deal of credit and thanks should go to the directors of the Fund, and particularly to the chairman and his fellow members of the Committee of Sponsors of the Associates, for the fact that this organization is now a going enterprise."



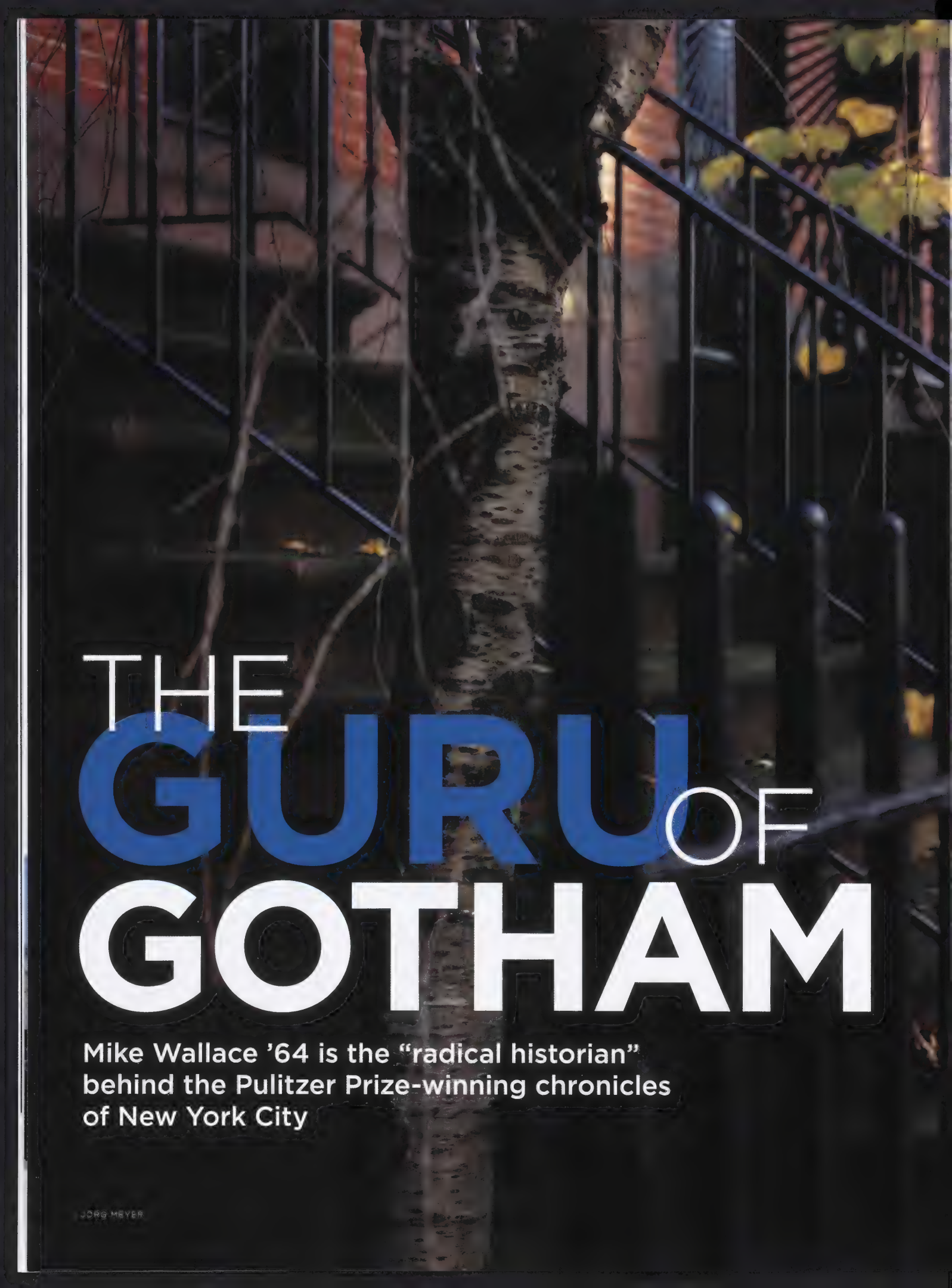
JEROME A. NEWMAN '17, chairman of the Committee of Sponsors of the John Jay Associates, receives, from Columbia University President Grayson Kirk, a plaque denoting life membership in the Associates. Dr. Kirk presented similar plaques to (l. to r.) Benjamin J. Buttenwieser '19, John T. Cahill '24, and Horace E. Davenport '29 who also serve as life members of the Associates.

Columbia College Today

DidYouKnow?

The Columbia College Fund's Oldest Giving Society Turns 60

Did you know that the John Jay Associates — the College's oldest leadership giving society — turned 60 in 2020? Members are distinguished by making annual gifts of \$1,500 or more, providing dedicated support to students and faculty. The December 1960 issue of *CCT* announced the group's founding; then-Dean John G. Palfrey noted that the John Jay Associates would be vital to the "College's continued growth as a pioneer and a leader among American colleges." In its first year, there were 103 John Jay Associates members; now, there are approximately 3,000. Find the story online: bit.ly/36k6C4k.



THE GURU OF GOTHAM

Mike Wallace '64 is the "radical historian" behind the Pulitzer Prize-winning chronicles of New York City



Be careful what you say to a historian. Early in my conversation with Mike Wallace '64, GSAS'73 — as we discuss the logistical hurdles of conducting a lengthy interview through a Zoom screen — I shrug and say, “It’s a whole new world now.”

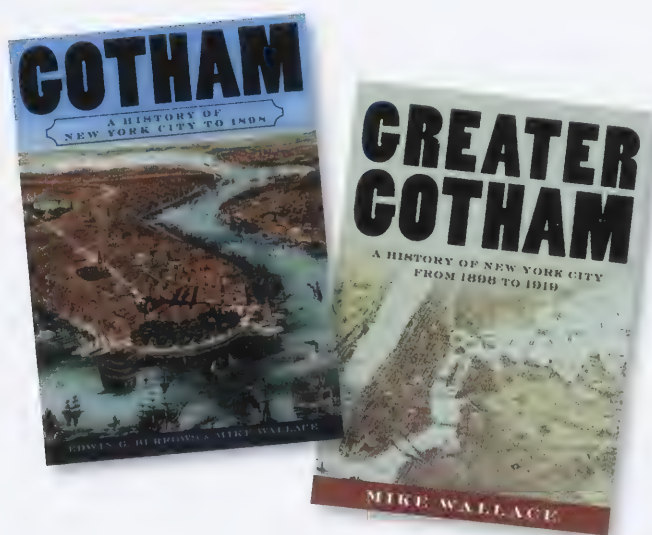
Wallace’s reply is almost automatic: “Except that it’s not.”

I should have known better. If there’s anyone who can take the long view in these incredibly turbulent times, it’s Mike Wallace, who has devoted his life and career to unpacking the essential lessons from centuries of American history. There is no succinct way to summarize Wallace’s accomplishments, but let’s try anyway. He is a Distinguished Professor of History at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice and the CUNY Graduate Center. He is

a stroke of timing that coincided with the 100th anniversary of New York’s consolidation into five boroughs. And if that subtitle sounds almost comically ambitious, it has nothing on the book itself. *Gotham* is the rare work that is helpfully described in both page count (1,408) and pounds (4.73).

Gotham’s sheer comprehensiveness is both overwhelming and dazzling. If you’re curious about the evolution of New York’s fur trade, or the historic cost of renting a brothel, or the ever-shifting meaning of the epithet “Yankee Doodle,” or honestly pretty much anything else, you can flip to the index of *Gotham* and find a meticulously researched anecdote about it. By striving to include anything and everything about the early years of New York City, Wallace and Burrows were essentially practicing the historical equivalent of pointillism, with countless individual micro-narratives adding up to a singular, definitive picture of the city. Against the odds, and arguably reason itself, they succeeded.

The book’s publication was met with universal acclaim, and in 1999, *Gotham* won the Pulitzer in history. Nineteen years after its publication came a sequel, *Greater Gotham: A History of New York City from 1898 to 1919*, which Wallace wrote solo. This second volume, which clocked in at a



**“If you don’t enjoy it,
you’re not going to
remember it. You’re not
going to *believe* it.”**

the founder or cofounder of a series of influential historical projects, including the Radical History Forum, the New York Public History Project and the Gotham Center for New York City History. He is the recipient of a long, long list of honors and prizes, beginning with a Columbia University Presidents Fellowship in 1961 and ending with the first Federal Hall Medal for History in 2017.

And, yes, there’s the Pulitzer Prize-winning book that is widely regarded as the greatest and most authoritative history of New York City to date.

Wallace authored *Gotham: A History of New York City to 1898* alongside fellow historian Edwin G. Burrows in 1998,

mere 1,196 pages, garnered similar rave reviews from publications like *The New York Times*, *The New York Review of Books* and *The New Yorker*.

But now, reflecting on *Gotham* and its sequel, Wallace doesn’t mention the starred reviews or the Pulitzer. His measure of the project’s success is a simpler one: The sheer number of readers who told him they’d enjoyed reading a history book. “That’s the indispensable criteria,” Wallace says. “If you don’t enjoy it, you’re not going to remember it. You’re not going to finish it. You’re not going to *believe* it.”

It’s a pragmatic philosophy that happens to be squarely in line with what attracted Wallace to the subject of history in the first place. Entering Columbia College in 1960, at 18, Wallace was at just the right time, and in just the right city, to fall in love with the subject — though that wasn’t the original plan. “I was going to be a doctor. My mother was very clear on that,” he says, laughing.



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

After nearly failing organic chemistry — and realizing he much preferred the history electives he was taking for fun — Wallace switched majors. When he'd finished his undergraduate studies, Wallace stayed at Columbia for his graduate degrees. He found a mentor in famed historian Richard Hofstadter GSAS'42, who had just won his second Pulitzer for the prescient *Anti-Intellectualism in American Life*. Wallace was Hofstadter's research assistant, and eventually collaborated with him on the book *American Violence: A Documentary History*.

In addition to his personal and professional relationship with Hofstadter, Wallace's young career was defined by another key event: his participation in the student strike of 1968, which famously resulted in the occupation of campus buildings and their subsequent storming by the NYPD. Wallace was elected to the Strike Coordinating Committee — in “the more moderate faction,” he says — though Hofstadter opposed the protests. “The remarkable thing is that we remained friends and colleagues despite the tempestuous '68 moment,” says Wallace.

Splitting his time and his influences between a respected

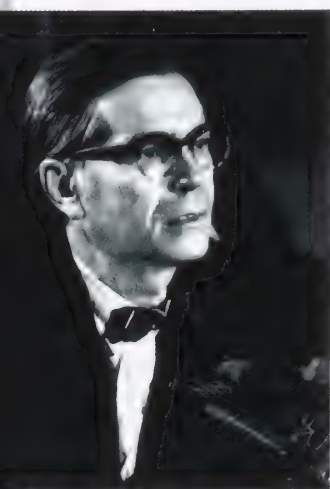
(but relatively orthodox) historian and an exciting (but relatively unstable) political movement put Wallace in a unique position to bring both intellectual rigor and revolutionary spirit to the field of history. Wallace's dissertation, which was on the nature of American political parties, began with a straightforward premise supported by Hofstadter: Political parties are, broadly, a net good for the United States. But Wallace's experience on the strike committee, and his interactions with other young historians who were eager to challenge accepted norms, pushed his research toward those who often went ignored in historical discussions: “People who were excluded by the two-party system — and were *meant* to be excluded.”

By the early 1970s, Wallace had emerged as one of the world's premier practitioners and proponents of “radical history,” which sought to understand historical events through previously overlooked lenses like gender, race, sexuality and class. “You began to have Black activists [looking at published histories] and saying, ‘What the f--- is this?’ So Blacks get added into the picture. Then come the women. ‘Oops, you left out half of the population.’ But by adding individuals or groups into the picture, you're also left with the necessity of confronting the white reaction to this. You're confronted with the necessity of analyzing and understanding racism. So it wasn't just addition. It was transformation.”

The concept of “radical history,” which has become central to the approach of many modern-day historians, was revolutionary at the time, and Wallace devoted much of his career to practicing and spreading it. In 1971, he took

ABOVE:
A bird's-eye
view of
the City of
New York,
ca. 1884.

BOTTOM
LEFT:
Wallace's
mentor,
Richard
Hofstadter
GSAS'42,
in 1968.



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY RARE BOOK & MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY

a job at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice to teach police officers the history of American justice. In 1973, he became a co-founder and director of the Radical History Forum, and was the editorial coordinator of the *Radical History Review* through the mid-80s. He published a series of essays, eventually collected into a volume called *Mickey Mouse History and Other Essays on American Memory*, that explored how and why American history is (often misleadingly) packaged for the general public. And in 2000, he established the Gotham Center for New York City History, which aims to “increase scholarly and public understanding of New York City’s rich and living past.”

Wallace’s inclusive, pragmatic, forward-thinking approach to history, and to New York City in particular, proved uniquely timely when — just a year after the Gotham Center was founded — the World Trade Center was attacked on September 11, 2001. In his book *A New Deal for New York*, which was published just a year after 9-11, Wallace made the provocative case that the rebuilding necessitated by the attack on the World Trade Center was also an opportunity to rethink the future of New York City, with a government-funded program that would tackle looming crises like breakdowns in mass transit and unaffordable housing.

Today, it’s impossible to read *A New Deal for New York* without drawing parallels to the Covid-19 pandemic. The virus has been a disruptive and devastating force across

the world, but few American cities have been affected as dramatically as New York, where the population density and public transit systems pose unique challenges for the virus’s potential spread. As countless small businesses close their doors and a not-insignificant portion of residents vacate the city entirely, it’s easy to wonder: Is there really a way that a post-pandemic New York City can thrive? Can it even *recover*?

In times that can sometimes feel exceptional in their darkness, it is comforting to spend an afternoon with someone who reminds you they are not. When asked about Covid, Wallace rattles off the pandemics that have devastated New York over the centuries like he’s reciting the alphabet: yellow fever, cholera, typhoid, influenza. “Repeatedly, we’ve been in situations where people said, ‘Oh my God, this is the end of New York,’” Wallace says. “History doesn’t guarantee anything, so the fact that we have pulled out of this crisis or that crisis — and gone on to bigger and better — doesn’t *guarantee* it will happen again. But my default position is that New York will bounce back, more or less. My feeling is that it’ll be messy, but it’ll be recoverable. It’s one of the appealing things — although appalling for historians — the degree to which tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow is our temporal focus. It’s an American characteristic, to some degree. The past is the dustbin of history. It might be a source of amusing movies or interesting museum exhibits. But the action is in the future. Followed closely by the present.”

For someone with such a depth of knowledge about New York City’s past, Wallace is clearly, rigorously invested in the city’s present and future. This is both the danger and the joy of asking Mike Wallace about New York City: You can ask a simple question, but there are no simple answers. If you ask what it was like to grow up in New York City, he’ll patiently explain that it was a time when there was very real debate about whether Queens even *counted* as New York City. And if you ask what neighborhood he lives in *now*, you’ll get an elegant mini-treatise on the fluctuating boundaries of Park Slope that weaves in fluid social dynamics and the history of the railroad depot.

For all his knowledge and love of the city, Wallace is currently only a part-time New Yorker. Wallace’s wife (and sometimes collaborator), celebrated Mexican writer Carmen Boullosa, is a distinguished lecturer at CUNY’s

“History doesn’t guarantee anything. But my default position is that New York will bounce back.”



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS





Macaulay Honors College, but the couple split their time between New York and Mexico City. “At a time when bi-nationalism is not seen as *desideratum*, we are, I guess, an example of possibilities,” he says. Wallace has taken to his second home city, though he admits his Spanish is rusty enough that he eventually bows out of the frequent salons with Mexican writers, artists and intellectuals he and Boullosa host at their home. “They’re very welcoming to me at the dinner table until the third glass of wine — at which point English is out the door, and so am I.”

Fortunately, there’s no shortage of work to occupy him. There’s a third volume of *Gotham* on the way, which will pick up where *Greater Gotham* left off in 1919 and stretch to the end of WWII. “Fortunately, the logic [of the historical narrative] is pretty clear: ’20s boom, ’30s bust, ’40s war,” Wallace says. Each *Gotham* book is a titanic undertaking, and “nothing about this project happens quickly,” he says. The book won’t write itself, so Wallace has focused all of his energy on it, retreating almost completely from the crowded roster of events that defined him as a busy public intellectual in the early 2000s.

To the immense relief of anyone fearing another lengthy gap between books, he confirms that a not-insignificant chunk has already been written. Still: *Gotham* was published in 1998, when Wallace was 56; *Greater Gotham* was

published in 2017, when Wallace was 75. If the third volume required the same amount of time, it would be published in 2036, when Wallace would be 94.


There is no delicate way to ask the obvious question that hovers around the third book, so I’m a little surprised when Wallace himself brings it up with a matter-of-fact shrug. “On this one, I’m under the time pressure of death,” he says. “But I’ve always felt that.”

And so, barring that final and unwelcome stopping point, the work continues. In New York or Mexico City, Wallace wakes up, sits down at his desk, and diligently goes back to assembling his surpassingly comprehensive history of the greatest city in the world. In fact, this very conversation is an unusual break from his routine. “You’re the only person that I’ve done an interview with. My rule is: I don’t deviate from the historical work for anything,” he says, pausing thoughtfully. “But this *is* the historical work.”

Scott Meslow is a writer, editor and critic for publications including *GQ*, *Vulture*, *POLITICO Magazine*, *The Atlantic* and *The Week*. His first book, *From Hollywood With Love — an oral and visual history of Hollywood romantic comedies in the ’80s and ’90s, and the genre’s resurgence in the streaming era* — will be published in early 2022. He lives in Los Angeles.

OPPOSITE
PAGE AND
ABOVE:
NYC views,
past and
present.



The background of the entire page is a photograph of a large astronomical telescope. A white telescope tube extends diagonally from the bottom left towards the top right. Three calibration spheres are hanging from the top of the telescope: a blue one with a white spot, a red one with a white spot, and a plain silver one. Below the telescope tube, there is a control panel with several small rectangular displays showing different astronomical images. The title 'STAR SEARCH' is overlaid on the right side of the image.

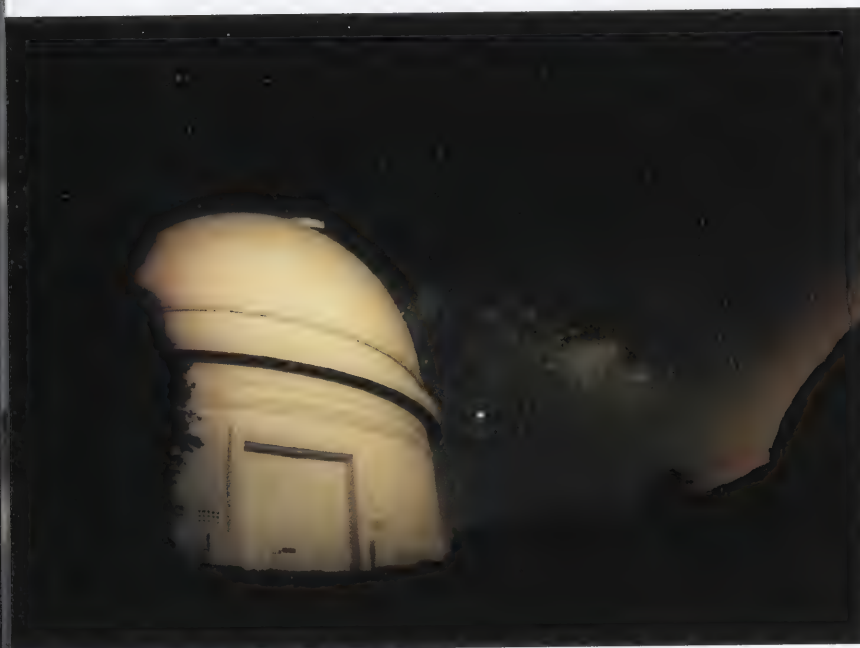
STAR SEARCH

Astrophysicist
Rebecca Oppenheimer '94
studies some of the
oddest objects
in the universe

By Matthew Hutson

Rebecca Oppenheimer '94 is a degenerate. She will happily tell you this. Despite her position as the astrophysics curator at the American Museum of Natural History, a staid institution inhabiting New York City for a century and a half, she peppers her speech with profanity, plays pranks on research collaborators, resists the call of "big science" in order to work on more intimate projects that often involve hand-building new instruments, and has gilded at least one astronomy lecture with slides of kindred spirits Charles Bukowski and Hunter S. Thompson.

She also studies some of the oddest objects in the universe — celestial bodies governed by what is known, incidentally, as degeneracy pressure. These include brown dwarfs — bigger than planets but smaller than stars — which she and her collaborators were the first to discover, just months after she graduated from Columbia. "I've worked on degenerates for most of my life," she said at the Bukowski lecture. "It's nice to be able to work on something you love."



The 200-inch Hale Telescope dome, at Palomar Observatory.

Oppenheimer's focus for the past four years has been PARVI (PALomar Radial Velocity Instrument), an instrument used with Palomar Observatory's 200-inch Hale Telescope, in the mountains above San Diego. PARVI is a spectrograph, which measures the frequencies of light emitted by a star. Slight changes in these frequencies can mean the star is wobbling, creating a Doppler effect, the way a siren sounds different depending on whether an ambulance is approaching or receding. Such a wobble might indicate the periodic pull of an orbiting planet. What's more, if starlight filters through the atmosphere of a passing planet, that leaves further fingerprints on the signal, possibly allowing astronomers to analyze the composition of the planet's atmosphere.

While many instruments are the size of a bus, PARVI is only a couple of feet across, connected to the telescope by a long fiber optic cable. "It's a bunch of new technologies tested out in this tiny little machine to see if they'll all work," says Oppenheimer's current graduate student, Rose Gibson GSAS'22. "If we can show that this really compact structure can measure these insanely tiny signals, that would mean a lot for new instrument design."

It could also mean the ability to detect one of astronomy's holy grails: an Earthlike planet around a Sunlike star. In other words, a potential home to life outside our solar system.

OPPENHEIMER GREW UP on the Upper West Side, less than a mile from Columbia. She was interested in how things worked and read books about science, including one by astronomer Patrick Moore that told the folklore behind various stars. By 12, she'd saved enough to buy her own telescope and would camp out near her grandfather's house on eastern Long Island to observe the night sky. In high school she worked at the Goddard Institute of Space Studies and modeled river flow with computers.

She attended the College partially out of a reluctance to leave the city she loved, though told her parents to pretend she was much farther away, and they happily obliged. (Classmates may remember her as Ben; she came out as transgender in 2014, though she'd always known who she was.) Oppenheimer loved her time at Columbia. "The professors that I got tied into were just wonderful," she says. "The one who helped me the most is David Helfand, my undergrad advisor." Helfand, a giant in the field, is also a past president of the American Astronomical Society and was longtime chairman of Columbia's Department of Astronomy. Together they examined satellite data, identifying clusters of galaxies. They also spent a week at an observatory in Arizona identifying sources of X-ray radiation. The two still meet up regularly for beers, Helfand says, to talk shop or gossip about "astropolitics."

Oppenheimer spent summers working at Goddard or visiting large telescopes in New Mexico and Puerto Rico. Outside her physics major, she took classes in architecture and theater, having designed sets in high school. She admits astronomy and theater are not the most practical of pursuits. "What I do is not very useful," she reckons, "but I think some of the most useless things that people do are some of the most important, actually."

WHEN YOU THINK OF a large celestial body, you likely imagine a star, like the Sun, or a planet, like Earth (or a galaxy, like the Milky Way, comprising billions of stars and planets). But there's also a middle ground: brown dwarfs. These gas giants are 13–75 times the mass of Jupiter, but not big enough for gravitational pressure to initiate nuclear fusion and render them a star. What keeps them from collapsing further is degeneracy pressure, a result of quantum mechanics that prevents electrons with the same energy state from occupying the same region of space. Brown dwarfs had been theorized but, like exoplanets — planets



outside our solar system — for years they made their presence known only on chalkboards and in science fiction. Some doubted their existence.

After college, Oppenheimer went to the California Institute of Technology for a Ph.D. in astrophysics, working with astronomer Shrinivas Kulkarni, whom she'd met when he gave a lecture at Columbia. Kulkarni's lab was working with a new instrument, developed at Johns Hopkins, called the Adaptive Optics Coronagraph. The AOC had recently been installed on a 60-inch telescope at Palomar. Kulkarni hoped to use it to spot dim objects orbiting nearby stars. When he met Oppenheimer, he recalls, "I said there's always a hope we'll find a brown dwarf. But there's no guarantee." She joined the team in September 1994, and one night the very next month at the observatory, she and a postdoc, David Golimowski, noticed a faint smudge next to the star Gliese 229, about 19 light years away. They saw it again the next night.

"We were like, 'Holy shit, this is really amazing,'" Oppenheimer says. The object was very red, similar to

what one would expect for a brown dwarf. (Brown dwarfs were named before their color was known, brown being sort of a non-color.) She excitedly wrote calculations in an absent collaborator's tidy notebook, amended with "Sorry for this mess, Tadashi. — Ben." Oppenheimer wanted to publish, but Kulkarni enforced temperance. It could have been merely another star behind the first star, so they waited a year to look again and see if it moved across the sky along with Gliese 229.

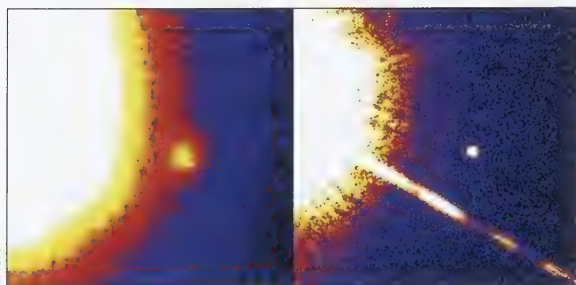
It did. And this time they used Palomar's 200-inch telescope, which had an infrared camera. "It was just so dramatically unlike a star, there was no question that this was some kind of new beast," Oppenheimer says. It was glowing — heat from compressed gas — with frequencies suggesting its atmosphere contained methane, which stars are too hot to contain. The team published papers in *Science* and *Nature* a couple months later and made the front page of *The New York Times*.

Oppenheimer has continued to study brown dwarfs, which have the interesting property of remaining about the same size no matter their mass, and white dwarfs, dense stars that are actually smaller the more massive they are. "I like to try to find the wacky stuff," she says. "That's my passion. And so that's partly why I work on instrumentation. It's only with new capabilities that you're going to find something that nobody has ever seen before."

OVER ZOOM, Oppenheimer led me on a tour of her optics lab, next to the Hayden Planetarium at the AMNH. She pointed out work tables scattered with lasers and lenses and mirrors and tools, and racks of computers and

ABOVE: The Hale Telescope dome sits open to the sky before a night of observing.

LOWER LEFT: Oppenheimer and her team first saw a brown dwarf in the glare of a brighter star (image at left), then confirmed it via a second photo taken a year later.



NASA

STAR SEARCH

hard drives. Nothing is being built at the moment, but normally she'd have to don a white bodysuit to keep everything pristine. She's written that the precision required in her work is equivalent to photographing the entire Empire State Building and pointing, in the photo, to a bump on the pavement and saying it's exactly 4.43 millionths of a meter tall. "She's really innovative when it comes to working on instrument design," her graduate student, Gibson, says, "and seeing what kinds of weird things you can put together to create some totally bizarre instrument nobody else would have thought of." (Oppenheimer also builds things for fun. In her office is a model of an F-14 fighter jet — the kind from *Top Gun* — and she's working on a customized model of the *HMS Beagle*, the survey vessel known for carrying Darwin to the Galápagos and, she says, "the first thoroughly scientific ship ever built.")

"I like the kind of science I do," Oppenheimer says. "I see it as more of a classical science in the sense that you go from an idea or a question, and then you have to figure out, 'Well, how do I make this measurement?' So I build an instrument that can do it. That takes quite a long time, then I take it out into the field and use it." Astronomy is headed toward larger and larger telescopes and collaborations, but Oppenheimer remains a holdout.

"I kind of prefer the smaller projects," she says. "It's the small ones where you can make your own decisions. You don't have to go through a huge committee and write reams of reports in order to change one screw from metric to English, you know? My style, you just drill a hole and put the screw in. Even if in the middle of the night at the observatory there's a problem, you just go downstairs to the machine shop and fix it."

Unfortunately, Oppenheimer's hands are currently left with little to do. After only six nights of use, PARVI

Oppenheimer with her teammates, the Palomar Mountain staff and project spokesdog Paco.



RIGHT: Gold-coated optics that were part of an imaging spectrograph.

FAR RIGHT: A look inside the PARVI spectrograph's vacuum chamber.

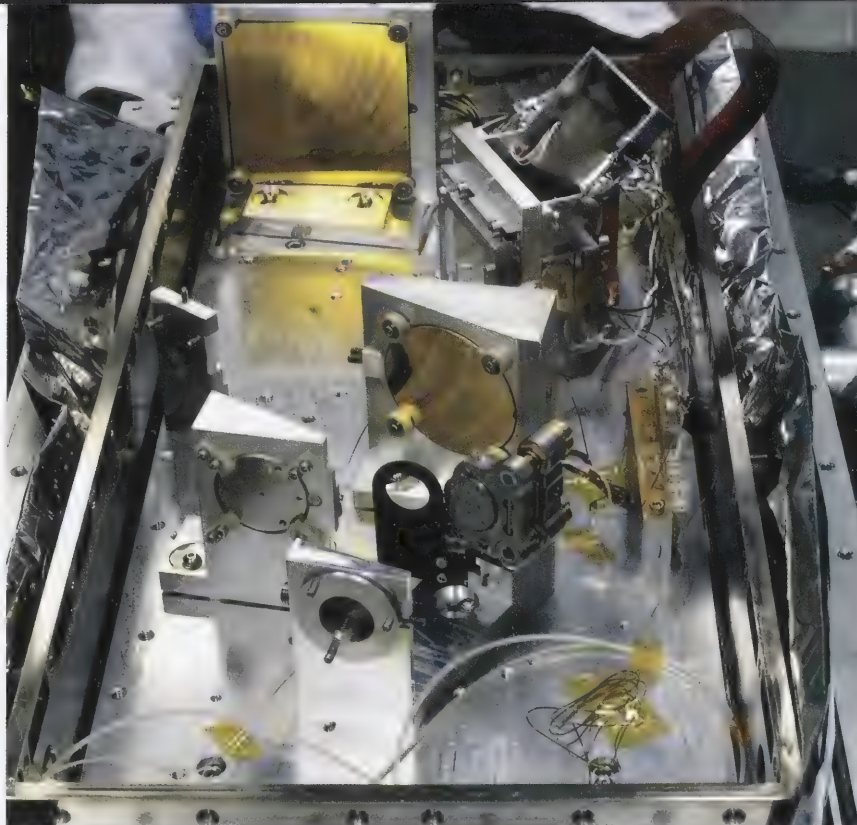
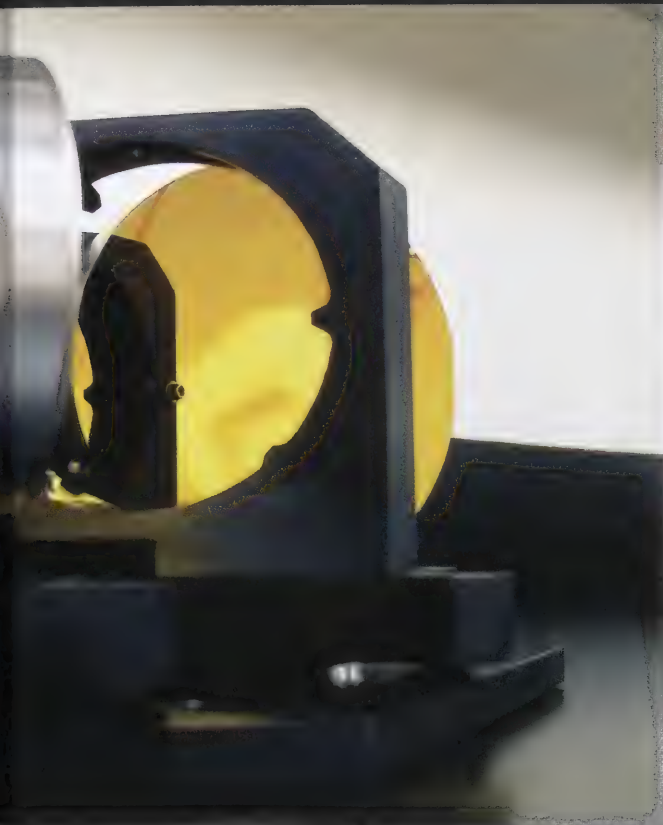


had to lie dormant. Palomar is shut down due to social distancing restrictions in the face of the pandemic. "It's heartbreaking," Oppenheimer says. "This is a big part of my student's thesis. And we've got about 10, 15 people involved in this project. We just have to sit and wait."

JUST AS OPPENHEIMER prefers deep involvement in small projects, she also prefers to advise only one graduate student at a time. "She's been very successful mentoring the students she's had from our department" — such as Gibson — Helfand says. "What makes people successful as a mentor is sufficient sensitivity, which not all scientists have, to be able to recognize another human being there who's not the same as you. But also just the genuine love and enthusiasm for what you're doing."

Working with Oppenheimer is "a lot of fun," Gibson says. They spend a lot of time together outside of lab, driving to mountain observatories or collecting data, "so it really matters that our personalities get along," Gibson says. "And she's said multiple times there's no point in doing science if you're not having fun with it." Oppenheimer also loves the unique teaching opportunities offered by the museum. She curates exhibitions, like one on exoplanets called *Searching for New Worlds*, and creates space shows for the planetarium, like *Journey to the Stars*. "Part of what I love about this place is it's totally anti-elitist," she says. "We get five million people a year. And they're paying money to come and see

PHOTOS BY REBECCA OPPENHEIMER '94



all the science and stuff that we do. I think that's really fucking cool."

Gibson can vouch for Oppenheimer's inclusivity. "She's the kind of person who knows the names of all the security guards and custodians at AMNH and will stop and chat with them," Gibson says. "And I love that, because science can feel so isolating sometimes. She makes it an environment where it feels like everybody is a part of it."

"Her academic energy and productivity are a model for graduate students, postdocs and visiting scholars," says Neil deGrasse Tyson GSAS'92, the popular astrophysicist and director of the Hayden Planetarium. "I remember her as an undergraduate at Columbia, while I was there as a graduate student. Years later I was delighted to see her career launch, and have her return to NYC when we hired her."

Oppenheimer's coming out as transgender may also have made astrophysics more welcoming to some people. "I think that makes a lot of people feel more comfortable being themselves in the field," she says. She calls the decision "terrifying," but she couldn't keep up the act anymore. Most, but not all, colleagues have been supportive.

EVERY YEAR, Oppenheimer spends a month on a writing retreat, typically in the tropics because she loves hurricanes. This past October she had to settle for New Jersey, where she worked on a book that touches on the topic of labels. Without revealing much, she teases that it's a science book arguing that "planets don't exist," spiked with some "ridiculous anecdotes." Oppenheimer has written previously that classifications, whether of natural objects (planet) or people (Jew), can constrain our thinking about them. Soon after coming out as transgender, she defined the best practices of a scientist in *The New York Times*: "question who, where and what you are." The book may tackle some of that self-questioning on a

"Her energy and productivity are a model for graduate students, postdocs and visiting scholars," says astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson.

species level, engaging directly with philosophy: Where did the universe come from? What would it mean if life is widespread in the cosmos?

Helfand has long appreciated that expansive thinking in Oppenheimer. "Her research is very focused on highly sophisticated engineering solutions to problems of how you look at very faint things around very bright things," he says. "That kind of person, in our field at least, is often pretty blinkered. And she's just the opposite."

Eventually the pandemic will pass, and Oppenheimer will return to looking at the stars, and whatever else remains unknown and unlabeled. "The regions around stars are still so poorly understood," she says. "And it's so diverse, with different types of planets, brown dwarfs, comets, dust, whatever. These little points of light up in the sky are actually some of the most complex things that people ever look at. There's so much going on, not only inside each star, but also right around them. And I think that's really a fun thing to do. And to devote a large fraction of my life to. I certainly won't do this forever. But for now, it really is my passion."

Matthew Hutson is a freelance science writer in New York City who writes for *The New Yorker*, *Scientific American*, *Nature* and other publications. He's the author of *The 7 Laws of Magical Thinking*.

The Truth Is Out There

Oppenheimer discusses "alien" life in this video short: college.columbia.edu/cct.

How the experience of the
Core will evolve for today's —
and tomorrow's — students

THE CORE CURRICULUM'S SECOND CENTURY

By Jill C. Shomer

The Core Curriculum, the hallmark of a Columbia College education, entered its 101st year against a backdrop of acute, historic crises. 2020 saw striking echoes of the challenges that compelled the Core's founders to create the curriculum in the first place — as a means to impart to students an awareness of their place in the world, and to equip them with knowledge and habits of mind that are essential to responding to the complexities of their present moment.

But even as the Core's framework endures, it must evolve. How the curriculum could best respond to the moment was a vital question at the outset of this academic year, and its continued evolution will be an area of focus going forward. The Committee for the Second Century of the Core, made up of a diverse, multi-generational group of College leaders, alumni and students, was recently established; the group will convene regularly throughout the year to reflect on and reevaluate the Core's purpose and the experience it offers to each student, particularly for students of color, who may face systemic injustices in their everyday experiences. The ongoing dialogue is an effort to improve the College's articulation of the Core — helping students to better understand why they take it and how to approach it — and to determine how the curriculum can have the most meaningful impact on current and future Columbians.

Changes are already underway. Larry Jackson, the associate dean of Academic Affairs, Core Curriculum and Undergraduate Programs, spoke with *Columbia College Today* about the importance of the Core in difficult times, the collective effort he and Core faculty members have made to reframe the curriculum, and the goals of presenting a wider range of experiences and perspectives to the Core community.

Columbia College Today: It's been a challenging year. Do you think the Core can be a force for recovery?

Larry Jackson: When the Core was founded in 1919, the intention was to help students prepare to grapple with what the creators called "the insistent problems of the present." At the time, this included the destructive fallout from WWI, sweeping political changes, a deadly flu pandemic, police and vigilante violence against African Americans, and an anti-immigrant sentiment that led to the arrest and deportation of thousands. The idea of the Core as a way of responding to the problems of the present is something that we continue to think is important; the curriculum has evolved over time in order to meet that original goal.

CCT: And we're not only dealing with a pandemic and hate. How can we repair the breakdown of civil conversation in society?

Jackson: One of the problems that we have today is we have lost the personal element that we once had in democratic life. As there's been a shift to social media and cable news, it's become a lot easier to vilify people who disagree with us. We don't talk



Inside the Core Curriculum library.

to them face to face; we deal with cartoon versions of them. So I think that one of the things we try to emphasize in the Core is that we're creating a personal space in which people face to face can grapple with ideas that they disagree with, ideas that might even offend them deeply.

I think the other side of that is recognizing the limits of civil conversation and trying to foster the empathy and the perspective that will help students understand those limits and what might drive people to those limits. Yes, we want to encourage civil conversation, but we also want to take seriously instances where people feel that they are past that. Something has happened, they have experienced violation, they have experienced something that has made their entry into civil conversation impossible. We want to encourage the empathy, the imagination, the perspective that will allow us to understand what drove people to that point.

CCT: Is there a Core work or author you turn to during difficult times?

Jackson: I go back quite a bit to Hannah Arendt; I find a lot of comfort and perspective in her work. I first read *On Revolution* five or six times over the course of a year. It's a strange work that combines history, politics and philosophy, and I just found it so amazing and inspiring. It was what made me want to study philosophy and get my Ph.D. I think Arendt's study of totalitarianism — which is on the CC syllabus now — is really penetrating if you want to understand the dangers of totalitarianism in any time or place; she provides a lot of insight. Arendt really was one of the most original thinkers of the 20th century. She makes my heart flutter.

CCT: Why do you think it was important to adapt the Core Curriculum this year?

Jackson: We are grappling with the problems of Covid-19, and we're seeing a nationwide reckoning with a long history

of anti-Black racism — problems that are similar to what students were facing in 1919 — so we continue to look to the Core as a way to be responsive. In particular, we looked at the syllabi for all five courses and tried to build bridges between the works already on the syllabus and some of our present-day issues. We are also introducing new works that we think will be especially effective.

CCT: What new works or conversations are students engaging with?

Jackson: I'm pleased to say that all five of the Core courses have added something. When Joanna Stalnaker, the chair of Literature Humanities, and I talked about what students should read during the summer, she suggested Claudia Rankine's *Citizen: An American Lyric* — it just seemed like it was absolutely the exact right text for the moment. [See "Citizen Gets a Close Read."] The use of first- and second-person in Rankine's text very compellingly

CITIZEN GETS A CLOSE READ

LAST SUMMER, after protests decrying anti-Black police violence rose up in all 50 states, first-year Lit Hum students got a new reading assignment: Claudia Rankine SOA'93's *Citizen: An American Lyric*.

Citizen, published in 2014, chronicles the experience of racial micro-aggressions in essay, image and poetry; Rankine's use of second person, the narrative of *you*, is an especially powerful reckoning. "*Citizen* confronts the incessant lived reality of anti-Black violence from a perspective that is both intimate and collective," says Joanna Stalnaker, the Paul Brooke Program Chair for Literature Humanities. "It is a vital work for our time, and a vital work for Lit Hum."

Rankine is the Frederick Iseman Professor of Poetry at Yale, and the author of six poetry collections and three plays; she is also a video collaborator and anthology editor, and has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors. Rankine told *CCT* she created *Citizen* in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and the abandonment of Black communities in New Orleans. "People kept saying to me, 'How could this happen in the United States?' And I thought, white people believe these moments are not possible and Black people see them as inevitable. So I decided to begin a project where I would connect the micro-aggressions to the macro-aggressions.

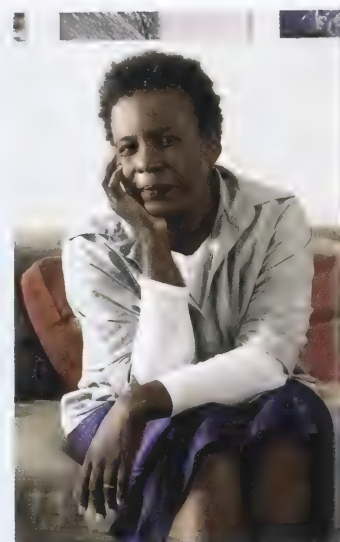
"With this book, [my concern] was how to make something that is so consistently present, and yet fleeting and invisible, concrete," she says. "It was a question of creating through prose a transparency that held moments that would be recognized by all, either as the aggressor or the receiver of the aggression."

Citizen's prose poems recount both verbal slights and intentional offenses. One longer essay considers the treatment of tennis superstar Serena Williams. A photograph of banal sunny suburbia grows teeth when you see the street sign reads "Jim Crow Road." Most strikingly, there is a spread memorializing African Americans who have been killed by police, which gets added to with each printing. The 2020 edition read by fall term students includes the names of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and George Floyd, lending a bracing awareness of *Citizen* as a present, living document.

Rankine says she is honored to be included in the Core Curriculum, and that it's not something she anticipated. But she does assume, in the act of writing, that her work will need a close reading. "That to me is pedagogy," she says. "And that it should end up in an institution where close reading is valued, perhaps does make sense."

She continues: "Of course I also teach, and I believe in the beauty of language and the importance of literature to the lives of all of us, or else we wouldn't be in these institutions. I wouldn't have spent almost my entire life with a book in my hand. I have the greatest regard for literature and for the culture — I do think the culture is what makes us."

— J.C.S.



Claudia Rankine SOA'93

The full Q&A with Claudia Rankine SOA'93 and her virtual AlumniTALK with Lit Hum students, faculty and alumni can be found at college.columbia.edu/cct.

addresses the experience of African Americans. It's an extraordinary work.

For Contemporary Civilization, chair Emmanuelle Saada and I wanted to introduce a unit on race and justice; with the support of the CC faculty we added texts by David Walker, Frederick Douglass, Martin Luther King Jr., Angela Davis and James Baldwin.

In Music Humanities, there's already a unit on jazz, but chair Elaine Sisman and her colleagues have extended that to look at the ways in which African-American jazz musicians have been responsive to the question of anti-Black racism. They've included Billie Holiday's "Strange Fruit" and Charles Mingus's *Fables of Faubus*, works that were composed specifically in response to the racism in the Black Freedom movement.

Art Humanities was already undergoing a major overhaul of the syllabus — the first since the course was created in 1947. Chair Noam Elcott '00 and other faculty have introduced artists of color like Romare Bearden and Jean-Michel Basquiat, as well as introducing race as a subject, looking at the ways that people of color were being depicted in art. That was already happening but now they're trying to emphasize and elevate that a bit more in the teaching.

And finally, Frontiers of Science. Frontiers has four units that are constantly rotating and always include the most cutting-edge, relevant research. There were already faculty who were talking about the South Bronx having a higher rate of asthma than the rest of New York City, one of the highest in the country. So that was a good example for a conversation about environmental racism. Now they're elevating those kinds of topics; for example, when they talk about the ethics of scientific studies, they're going to look at the Tuskegee Experiment. They're going to incorporate anti-Black racism into their discussion of science.

CCT: You mention that this is the first change for Art Hum since it was conceived — did the Core's founders expect the curriculum to evolve? How has change happened over the Core's history?

Jackson: I always love to point out that the first nine years the Core existed — when it was just one course, Contemporary Civilization, from 1919 to 1928 — there were seven different syllabi. It went through seven revisions in one decade. These kinds of changes



Larry Jackson, associate dean of Academic Affairs, Core Curriculum and Undergraduate Programs.

have been ongoing throughout the Core. For a number of years now, Lit Hum and CC have undergone a review every three years. Some significant changes occurred after women were accepted to the College in the early 1980s: Jane Austen was added to the Lit Hum syllabus, then Virginia Woolf and Toni Morrison. In 1995, CC added the Quran, and Islamic philosophers were also added to the syllabus. The triennial review was not taking place in Art Hum — there have been some revisions since 1947, but this is the first major overhaul. Music Humanities is now also being revised every three years; that's a fairly new development. And again, Frontiers of Science rotates its units every year to teach the most relevant research possible.

Those are the bigger changes, but within those frameworks there's been flexibility for instructors to add texts and to make decisions on their own about what they're including. The changes we've made this year are very much consistent with that, where we saw openings in the syllabi where we could introduce new texts. Lit Hum and CC will undergo their syllabi review this year, and we'll see what comes out of that. The reviews will take place in the spring term, and the faculty chairs are already working to make the process as inclusive, coordinated and transparent as

possible. There is also great interest in the perspectives that the Committee for the Second Century of the Core will provide.

CCT: What kind of outcomes do you hope to see regarding the changes to the Core?

Jackson: First and foremost, we want the Core community to be inclusive and diverse. It's incredibly important that the Core present a range of experiences and identities — nobody should go into a Core classroom and feel like this is an experience they can't have access to.

We can never represent all the diversity and richness of the human experience on a single syllabus, but we want to present as broad a range of experiences and perspectives as we can. We think that's the best way for students to be able to find themselves in these works, it's the best way for students to be able to grow and it's the best way for students to prepare for the world they're going to be going into when they graduate. We're updating and adding to the Core partly because we want students to feel like they're part of this community — we don't want anyone to feel shut out, we don't want anyone to feel like they don't belong — but also because these are really important texts that are going to prepare students for an uncertain world.

A black door with a keypad and a small window, next to a white wall and a red bench.

THE KITCHEN MAGICIAN

Greg Rales '12 is mixing up
“big, maximalist” flavors
at Red Gate Bakery



S

tepping down into the narrow entryway of the East Village's Red Gate Bakery on a rainy, late October day, I'm immediately hit by the scents of warm sugar, toasted spices and melted chocolate. The tiny space is inviting, cozy — the perfect panacea to the grey drizzle outside. I'm greeted by owner and baker Greg Rales '12 (with his 12-year-old Goldendoodle, Stella, by his side), his plaid button-down's sleeves rolled up to reveal the Red Gate logo tattooed on his arm. The self-taught baker took a circuitous path to opening his own store, and despite being a new business owner operating during a tumultuous year no one could have predicted, he is savoring his luck that he gets to do what he loves every day.

Rales has a lifelong love of crafting crazy concoctions. "I was kind of obsessed with magic as a kid," he says, "and I found my own form of magic in our spice cabinet at home. I loved mixing and creating new things — and bless my mother's palate, she would taste them!"

He taught himself how to bake by watching culinary shows on PBS and The Food Network and learning family recipes, and discovered that the kitchen was a place where he could keep magic in his everyday life: "I realized I could take all these disparate ingredients, like flour, sugar, butter — things that taste pretty gross on their own — and create something entirely new and different," he says. "It sounds trite, but it's the aspect of magic in my job that always astounds me."

RALES AND HIS FOUNDING business partner, Patricia Howard '13, opened Red Gate in December 2019, and it immediately garnered attention and rave reviews. New York City media like Gothamist and Grub Street fawned over its creative takes on cookies, cakes and other baked goods. "We're all about American classics

with the volume turned up," Rales says. "The things you baked with your grandma when you were a kid, desserts that are very accessible and familiar, but with one or two things that are turned on their head."

Rales and Howard met at Reid Hall in Paris, where they connected over their love of food (Howard jokes they "bonded over eating too many macarons"), and kept up that friendship once back on campus; both majored in creative writing.

After graduation, Rales began a master's at the School of the Arts, but jumped ship soon after he started the program when he received a job offer with the AMC network, in a new department focused on international co-production of television shows. At AMC, his penchant for bringing in homemade treats earned him a reputation as the office baker and, after three years, he realized he was more interested in baking than producing television. ("Little did my coworkers know I was testing recipes on them!" he laughs.) Rales started a catering company, then took jobs at local bakeries to learn the daily grind of a professional baker. He says that his approach was "start from the bottom, baby!" using his experience as "essentially a line cook" to prepare himself for the reality of someday running his own shop.

Meanwhile, Howard was moving up in the NYC foodie world, working as an executive assistant and later operations associate for the hip West Village restaurant The Beatrice Inn. In late 2018, Rales and Howard realized they were both in the right place to launch a business together. They originally planned to cook off-site and stage a series of pop-ups around the city, but in a touch of kismet, Rales walked by the current Red Gate location at 68 1st St. and noticed a "For Lease" sign; the pop-up idea quickly morphed into a brick-and-mortar reality. "I got the keys on my birthday, September 10, which was a lovely 30th birthday present," he says.





RALES AND HOWARD built Red Gate with inspiration from Scandinavian, Japanese and New England design aesthetics. Sitting in the space (the former home of Tuck Shop, an Australian meat pie restaurant) with Rales, it's easy to feel the homey vibe the duo created; wooden pegboards line the crisp white walls, with antique canisters displayed on shelves and baking tools hanging on hooks. "One thing that sets Greg apart is how he sticks to his guns," Howard says. "He knew he wanted a light, airy room, and he transformed this little meat pie shop into the bakery of his dreams."

Rales tells me he named Red Gate after a defunct Nantucket potato farm that his parents bought in the '90s, where he spent childhood summers. "It's where I have my fondest childhood memories, where I have all those feelings of safety, warmth and nostalgia that I wanted to create inside in this bakery," he says. In front of the farm is, unsurprisingly, a big, uniquely shaped red gate. Rales used it as a motif throughout the bakery, in its logo, in the striking red bench that sits outside and in a framed photograph of the farm's gate in the kitchen, gifted to Rales by his sister during the bakery's opening week. He says he turns to the

photo when he's stressed — it "serves as a nice escape when I'm having a tougher moment."

More than a few of those tough moments came sooner than anticipated; Red Gate was only a few months old when the Covid-19 pandemic hit. As the virus swept through the city, Rales closed the doors for a month while he planned how to reopen safely. Fortunately, the space had always been designed for

"We're all about American classics with the volume TURNED UP."

take-away — the ordering area is only 9 ft. by 9 ft. and there's no interior seating — so it didn't take Rales long to implement scheduled pickups and socially distanced lines. "We have an incredible customer base that came out to support us in full force the moment we were back, which I'm infinitely grateful for," he says. "We were able to churn out cookies and make people happy during a time when there wasn't a lot of stability."



One Smart Cookie

Rales gives us a taste of the Red Gate life in this video short: college.columbia.edu/cct/latest/feature-extra/redgate.

And what about those cookies? The creatively named treats call out to customers from a giant glass case. The Cannibal features house-made Oreos that are crushed and mixed into a plush brown-sugar cookie; the Choco-Toffee is a fresh take on chocolate-chip, made with brown butter and toffee bits, topped with flaky sea salt; the Kitchen Sinker features oats, chocolate, coconut and, for a salty twist, potato chips. “I like to mess around with big, maximalist flavors,” Rales tells me. “Sometimes they gel, and sometimes they don’t!” He uses his toasted coconut banana bacon cake as an example: “It’s a Frankenstein cake, a mishmash of my grandmother’s carrot cake and my mother’s banana bread and me making brunch one time and using bacon cream cheese frosting — it’s all these crazy things put together to create something delicious.”

After getting Red Gate off the ground, Howard left the bakery last spring to open her own restaurant, Dame, for which Rales was a pop-up contributing chef. Asked why she enjoys working with him, Howard says, “He’s not about the Instagram bait or the trends that are happening in the sugar world. He’s always prioritizing what’s going to taste the best and make you want to have seconds.”

A photographer had been shadowing us for the afternoon, and as we waited for him to pack his equipment, Rales decided to demonstrate his “baking as magic” ethos. He grabbed some Choco-Toffee dough and popped it in the oven; the room soon filled with the delicious smell of warm chocolate. He pulled them out as we were leaving, and the photographer and I walked out with irresistibly fresh treats in our hands. I’d planned to eat half and bring the rest home, but by the time I walked the 300 ft. across Houston Street, the whole cookie had disappeared — just like magic.

Portrait of a Nation

Master essayist Phillip Lopate '64 cast a wide editorial net to tell America's stories

Phillip Lopate '64 is an undisputed master of the personal essay. Recent Nobel Prize winner Louise Glück calls him "one of the most brilliant and original essayists now working." But Lopate's successes as an editor are just as notable — his definitive anthology, *The Art of the Personal Essay: An Anthology from the Classical Era to the Present* (1994), sold a quarter of a million copies and was adopted in English composition

and literature courses "pretty much everywhere," Lopate tells *CCT*.

Now he's back with another ambitious collection, *The Glorious American Essay: One Hundred Essays from Colonial Times to the Present* (Pantheon, \$40), a spectacular showcase for his favorite form of prose.

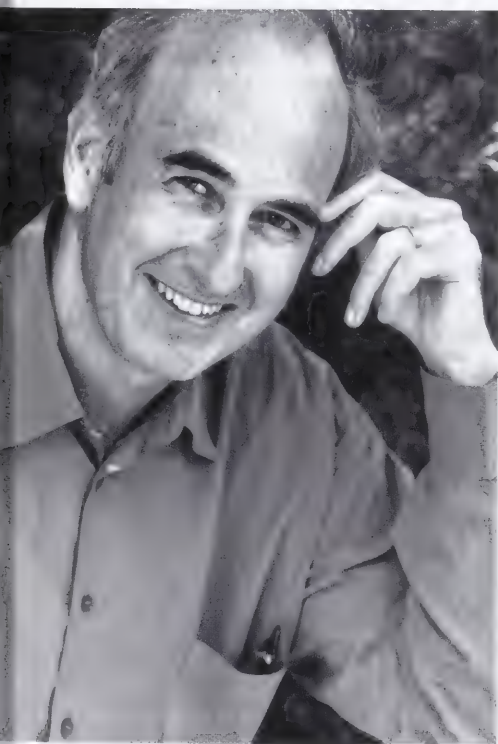
A survey of Lopate's relationship with essays dates to 1977. He was writing fiction and poetry when a book by the Romantic William Hazlitt caught his eye from the shelf of a summer house. What he found in its pages genuinely thrilled him: "I fell in love with the essay form," he says. At that time, essays were seen as uncommercial (Lopate points out that, historically, their value has waxed and waned), but as he started to write them himself he experienced a new sense of control and power. "I could take that 'Phillip Lopate' character and make him do anything."

Lopate reflected on this creative discovery in his moving 2010 essay, "The Poetry Years": "I found in the personal essay a wonderful plasticity, which combined the storytelling aspects of fiction with the lyrical, associative qualities of poetry." As he found his authorial voice, he began to publish a series of appealingly

original collections, among them the acclaimed *Bachelorhood: Tales of the Metropolis* (1981) and *Against Joie de Vivre: Personal Essays* (1989). Lopate's wry and subtle vignettes from city life alternate urbane intellectualism with an earthy, gloves-off Brooklyn honesty.

In addition to publishing books in all genres and teaching everywhere from Hofstra to the University of Houston (he is currently a professor of nonfiction writing at Columbia's School of the Arts), Lopate edited well-received anthologies. In 2015, after compiling two Library of America collections on New York and movie criticism, he got the idea to do "a big book" featuring essays on the history and character of America.

He envisioned *The Glorious American Essay* as a "big tent" book, perhaps to mirror the inclusive character of the nation it was meant to define. Lopate cast a wide editorial net, including speeches (George Washington, Martin Luther King Jr. and others), letters (Frederick Douglass), sermons (Jonathan Edwards) and papers (Jane Addams), as well as more conventional essays (Elizabeth Hardwick and Vivian Gornick). He also ventured beyond the realm of literature. "Every discipline



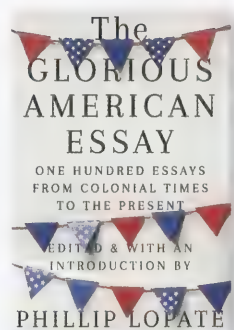
LAURE-ANNE BOSSELAAR

has exceptionally gifted writers,” Lopate proclaims in the introduction, excerpted here, explaining his inclusion of texts by scientist Lewis Thomas, theologian Paul Tillich and philosopher John Dewey. “I wanted to shake up the idea of what an essay was,” he says.

What unifies Lopate’s diverse selections is his unwavering focus on his theme. As the 100 essays travel forward in time, from Puritan preacher Cotton Mather to British novelist Zadie Smith, they provide glimpses of a nation in transition, always struggling to achieve or redefine the ideal society envisioned by its founders. In “The Twilight of Self-Reliance,” writer Wallace Stegner calls this ongoing labor “the greatest opportunity since the Creation — the chance to remake men and their society into something cleansed of past mistakes;” novelist Jamaica Kincaid, in “In History,” calls the New World a land with “the blankness of paradise.” Eloquent texts from different American eras “converse” with each other, Lopate points out, sounding and resounding the same themes with different emphases, rhyming without repeating as history is said to do.

His mosaic portrait of the nation was published the same month as the tumultuous 2020 presidential election, which Lopate thinks makes the essays “stunningly relevant.” “One thing [the book] clarifies is the notion of the American experiment, with its ideals of democracy, equality and a more perfect union,” he says. “The fact that these ideals have not yet been fully achieved, have even been betrayed at times, means we all have much work to do.”

— Rose Kernochan BC’82



Introduction

The essay is a literary form dating back to ancient times, with a long and glorious history. As the record *par excellence* of a mind tracking its thoughts, it can be considered the intellectual bellwether of any modern society. The great promise of essays is the freedom they offer to explore, digress, acknowledge uncertainty; to evade dogmatism and embrace ambivalence and contradiction; to engage in intimate conversation with one’s readers and literary forebears; and to uncover some unexpected truth, preferably via a sparkling literary style. Flexible, shape-shifting, experimental, as befits its name derived from the French (*essai* = “attempt”), it is nothing if not versatile.

In the United States, the essay has had a particularly illustrious if underexamined career. In fact, it is possible to see the dual histories of the country and the literary form as running on parallel tracks, the essay mulling current issues and thereby reflecting the story of the United States in each succeeding period. And just as American democracy has been an ongoing experiment, with no guarantees of perfection, so has the essay been, as William Dean Howells argued, an innately democratic form inviting all comers to say their piece, however imperfectly.

The Puritans, some of our earliest settlers, chose the essay over fiction and poetry as their preferred mode of expression. In both sermons and texts explicitly labeled “essays,” men like Cotton Mather and Jonathan Edwards articulated their religious and ethical values. Many later American commentators would take them to task for being sexually prudish, intolerant, and repressive. H. L. Mencken, in a scathing extended essay entitled “Puritanism as a Literary Force,” blamed that heritage for holding back American literature by overstressing behavioral proprieties while understressing aesthetics. Edmund Wilson wittily noted that Mencken himself was something of a Puritan. The bohemian wing of American literature, from Walt Whitman to the present, has engaged in protracted guerrilla warfare with Puritanism and offered itself as an alternative. On the other hand, Marilynne Robinson defends the Puritans from what she regards as a caricature of their positions. Say what you will about their rigid morality: these Puritan thinkers were highly learned, with sophisticated prose styles, and we are fortunate in having them set so high an intellectual standard for later American essayists to follow.

Skip ahead to the Founding Fathers, including George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, and Thomas Paine, all of whom seem to have been superb writers. In their treatises, pamphlets, speeches, letters, and broadsides, they tested their tentative views on politics and governance, hoping to move from conviction to certainty. Theirs was a self-conscious rhetoric influenced by the French Enlightenment authors and the orators of ancient Greece and Rome, as well as the polished eighteenth-century nonfiction prose writers of their opponent, Great Britain.

In the decades following independence, United States authors labored to free themselves from subservience to English parental literary influence and to establish a national culture that would sound somehow unmistakably American. Washington Irving, perhaps the first freelance American author to support himself by his pen, was ridiculed by British critics such as William Hazlitt for imitating the English periodical essayists. He, in turn, wrote an essay entitled “English Writers in America,” which began: “It is with feelings of deep regret that I observe the literary

animosity daily growing up between England and America." He went on to analyze the condescending travel accounts of English authors in America, which were then all the rage in Great Britain: "That such men should give prejudiced accounts of America is not a matter of surprise. The themes it offers for contemplation are too vast and elevated for their capacities. The national character is yet in a state of fermentation: it may have its frothings and sediment, but its ingredients are sound and wholesome; it has already given proofs of powerful and generous qualities, and the whole promises to settle down into something substantially excellent." Edgar Allan Poe bristled at the canard that Americans were too materialistic and engineering-minded to produce literature: "Our necessities have been mistaken for our propensities. Having been forced to make railroads, it has been deemed impossible that we should make verse But this is the purest insanity. The principles of the poetic sentiment lie deep within the immortal nature of man, and have little necessary reference to the worldly circumstances which surround him ... nor can any social, or political, or moral, or physical conditions do more than momentarily repress the impulses which glow in our own bosoms as fervently as in those of our progenitors."

But it was Ralph Waldo Emerson, our greatest nineteenth-century essayist, who sounded the alarm most famously in his speech "The American Scholar." Acknowledging that up to then the Americans were "a people too busy to give to letters more," he nevertheless prophesied that the time was coming "when the sluggish intellect of this continent will look from under its iron lids, and fill the postponed expectations of the world with something better than the exertions of mechanical skill. Our day of dependence, our long apprenticeship to the learning of other lands, draws to a close. The millions, that around us are rushing into life, cannot always be fed on the sere remains of foreign harvests." He concluded by saying: "We have listened too long to the courtly muses of Europe We will walk on our own feet; we will work with our own hands; we will speak with our own minds." It's worthwhile remembering that this author who called for independence from foreign culture was probably the best-read person of his time and had imbibed not only most of British, French, and German literature but Eastern religious classics as well.

Emerson developed a kind of essay that was quirky, densely complex, speculative, digressive, and epigrammatic. He was part of that extraordinary flowering of literary culture in the mid-nineteenth century, the so-called American Renaissance, which included Nathaniel Hawthorne, Poe, Henry David Thoreau, Herman Melville, Whitman, Margaret Fuller, and Emily Dickinson. By the time it had run its course, there was no longer any doubt that America had itself a national culture. But there was more at stake than just the development of literary talent. The nation was facing enormous political and moral challenges from the twin oppressions of blacks and women. The Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, which called for runaway slaves to be captured by northerners and returned as property to their southern slave owners, converted many of these writers to the abolitionist cause. Some of the most eloquent essays attacking slavery were penned by African Americans, such as Frederick Douglass and Martin R. Delany. They engendered an essayistic discourse on race that would be taken up by a distinguished lineage of black authors, including W. E. B. Du Bois, James Weldon Johnson, Zora Neale Hurston, Alain Locke, Ralph Ellison, and James Baldwin, continuing into our present day.

Meanwhile, women of the nineteenth century, still denied the vote and other rights, were barred from many professions, patronized, physically abused, and oppressed. It is remarkable how far back in America feminist voices were heard, from Judith Sargent Murray's 1790 "On the Equality of the Sexes" to Margaret Fuller to Sarah Moore Grimké and Fanny Fern, reaching a high point in the suffragist Elizabeth Cady Stanton's great essay, "The Solitude of Self," and sweeping forward to the twentieth century. The essay, once considered a male province, has been nourished by the mental toughness and emotional honesty of so many bold, brilliant women in the last hundred years: think of Mary McCarthy, Hannah Arendt, Elizabeth Hardwick, Susan Sontag, Adrienne Rich, Joan Didion, Cynthia Ozick, Zadie Smith

Many of the essays chosen for this anthology address themselves specifically — sometimes lovingly, sometimes critically — to American values. (See, for instance, the pieces by George Santayana, Mary McCarthy, and Wallace Stegner, each taking America's temperature.) But even those that do not do so have a secondary, if inadvertent, subtext about being American. E. B. White was an influential example of an essayist who conveyed, in a down-to-earth American tone, the average citizen's preoccupations at home, while remaining aware of the larger challenges facing society.

In a United States where various groups have felt marginalized because of their ethnicity, national origin, gender, geographical location, or disability, members of these groups have increasingly turned to the essay as a means of asserting identity (or complicating it). Gerald Early, in his anthology *Speech and Power*, wrote: "Since black writing came of age in this country in the 1920s, the essay seems to be the informing genre behind it It is not surprising that many black writers have been attracted to the essay as a literary form since the essay is the most exploitable mode of the confession and the polemic, the two variants of the essay that black writers have mostly used." The same could be said for other minority groups in American society, who have benefited the essay form immeasurably by adapting it to their purposes, enriching the American language with their dialect-flavored speech. They have contributed to the "cultural unity within diversity" ideal that Ralph Ellison envisioned for this country. At the same time, the American essay has taken a turn toward greater autobiographical frankness, thanks in part to their efforts.

Another skein of essay writing, of unarguable importance now that the planet finds itself endangered by climate change, is nature writing. In America, that tradition goes back at least as far as J. Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur and extends to John James Audubon, Henry David Thoreau, John Muir, Mary Austin, John Burroughs, Edward Abbey, Rachel Carson, and Annie Dillard, among others. We see in it an attempt to balance the factual and descriptive elements of flora and fauna with a fresh emotional access to wonder and awe. However alarmed these essayists may sound in their warnings of the threats to nature, there is still looming underneath an appeal to the original myth of America as the New World, a second Garden of Eden where humankind could finally get it right.

From the book *THE GLORIOUS AMERICAN ESSAY* edited and with an introduction by Phillip Lopate, published by Pantheon Books, an imprint of the Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group, a division of Penguin Random House LLC. Copyright © 2020 by Phillip Lopate.



Calling all writers!

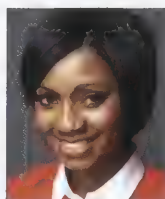
CCT is holding its first-ever personal essay contest!
The theme is **METAMORPHOSIS**.

Enter for your chance to win a \$500 prize and publication
in our Spring/Summer 2021 issue.

JUDGES



Robert Kolker '91,
author of *Hidden
Valley Road:
Inside the Mind
of an American
Family*, a New York
Times bestseller



**Helena Andrews-
Dyer '02**, a
Washington Post
reporter and author
of *Reclaiming Her
Time: The Power of
Maxine Waters*



**Miya Matsumoto
Lee '18**, editor
of *Modern Love*
Projects at *The
New York Times*

Submission deadline is **Monday, March 8, 2021**;
for topic guidelines and other info,
go to [**college.columbia.edu/cct/essaycontest**](https://college.columbia.edu/cct/essaycontest).



alumni news



JILL SHOMER

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Take your best shot at captioning this cartoon
by Dr. Benjamin Schwartz '03, PS'08.

A SOCIALLY DISTANCED SEASON

Students, faculty and neighborhood residents enjoyed the fall while maintaining a safe separation, as the Columbia community continued to adjust to the changes brought on by Covid-19. For the few on campus, the elevated walkway and greenspace above Amsterdam Avenue became a socially distanced study spot.

“Here Is New York” — and We Will Prevail

By Ted Schweitzer '91, LAW'94

Although the election is behind us, we still battle a virus and a troubled economy, in the context of a nation that's divided in more ways than one. On occasion, I turn to comedy — specifically the Saturday morning cartoon variety of my youth — to put a spring back into my step. Bugs Bunny had the uncanny ability to prevail despite any obstacle. I think of his animated brilliance: As a plank beneath him is severed, he stands suspended in midair and declares, “I know this defies the law of gravity but, you see, I never studied law!”

When I'm not being nostalgic about 1970s cartoons, I turn to my community for support; I enjoy keeping up with friends and fellow alumni in our now socially distant world. I am in awe of Columbia College alumni — bright, articulate, passionate and accomplished people who strive to make a difference in the world. Their leadership spans every conceivable field: sports, science, law, literature, theater, technology, medicine, media, business, religion, academia, the arts and many others.

As many of us seek new ways to connect, I encourage you to engage further with the College. Attend an online AlumniTALK about equity, humanity and social justice. Join the Odyssey Mentoring Program. Interview applicants through the Alumni Representative Committee. Wherever you live, Morningside Heights has never been as accessible as it is now in the virtual world.

Many of you know one of Dean James J. Valentini's favorite refrains — that we are “the greatest college in the greatest university in the greatest city in the world.” I want to spend a moment

reflecting on New York City. And make no mistake; since 1754, Columbia (and by extension its alumni) has been inextricably tied to this great metropolis. The global matrix has been hard hit by the pandemic and recession. Numerous articles highlight ways in which life in the city has become more difficult. Many of its traditional strengths, like density and reliance on public transit, have morphed into vulnerabilities.

To put my mind at ease, I look back to history. New York City has experienced a sustained and inexorable upward trajectory, albeit not on a straight line. The qualities that brought NYC success — grit, hard work, creativity and ambition — will certainly help it again to withstand the current challenges. The metropolis still attracts the best and brightest from all over the globe. Just like Columbia, NYC has one of the most diverse populations in the country. I believe it will confront its problems, reinvent where necessary and undergo a renaissance that will lift it to even greater heights. Some would say this process has already begun.

The College reflects the indomitable spirit of the city, as exemplified by many of its professors. I can't forget Jim Shenton '49, GSAS'54's passion for history. And what about Ken Jackson? He still squires undergrads around NYC at night (although his famous bike tour is now by bus)! Andrew Dolkart has written definitive historical accounts of architecture throughout NYC, and regularly shares his knowledge outside the classroom on walking tours. We lived and studied in the masterpiece of McKim, Mead & White. As students, some of us had the same commute that Walt Whitman had for so many years, between Brooklyn and Manhattan.

Of course, our connection is not limited to architecture, urban planning and history. We have myriad other connections — to writers and thinkers, for example, not to mention the worlds of arts and finance — all of which thrive in NYC.

New Yorkers are hardy folk, and in these tough times we dig deep to take care of ourselves and one another. The same can be said of the College's remarkable alumni, even if their tenure in the city was limited to four years — or a few more, if they, like I, stayed on for graduate school. The great essayist E.B. White was also a quintessential New Yorker, though we must forgive the fact that he attended college in Ithaca. As he noted in his famous 1949 love letter to New York, “the city makes up for its hazards and deficiencies by supplying its citizens with massive doses of a supplementary vitamin: the sense of belonging to something unique, cosmopolitan, mighty and unparalleled.” Perhaps that is why, no matter how far you travel from the city post-college, you may still find yourself boasting that you are a New Yorker.



EILEEN BARROSO



ANGELA DAVIS DREW

Making (Air)waves at Minnesota Public Radio

By Kim Martineau JRN'97, SPS'18

Starting a new job is never easy, but in his first month as president of Minnesota Public Radio, **Dukesne Drew '89** had to navigate a global pandemic, the economic downturn that ensued and the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officers, all over back-to-back Zoom meetings from his home.

Floyd's death was a local story for MPR, and the newsroom covered it aggressively as mass protests over police violence and racial injustice spread from Minneapolis to the rest of the world. At the same time, MPR journalists were grappling with uncertainty over a recent round of buyouts, and the looming threat of layoffs. "I was really proud of our staff," says Drew, speaking from his home in St. Paul, not far from the bodega where Floyd was killed. "Two and a half months into Covid-19, everyone's on edge, with friends and colleagues leaving. They did a tremendous job."

Drew (his first name is pronounced "Du-shawn") took the top job at MPR in May, becoming the first person of color to lead American Public Media Group's crown jewel, MPR News, and its sister stations, The Current and Classical MPR. Combined, the three stations reach one million listeners a week on a \$34 million

annual budget. Before joining MPR, Drew led community engagement at the Bush Foundation, following a 20-year career in newspapers, most of it at the *Minneapolis-St. Paul Star Tribune*, where he rose from intern to managing editor for operations.

MPR's diversified funding model has helped insulate it from the economic pressures facing many newspapers and commercial media. Its relatively large share of listener support — 40 percent — has helped blunt the pandemic-driven drop in ad and philanthropic underwriting revenue. Still, Drew had to let 17 employees go through buyouts and layoffs.

He admits that the job has been more challenging than anticipated, but says he draws strength from his past achievements. "I'm a Head Start kid who went to Columbia and Northwestern," he says. "I've been with my wife for 25 years. I've had a great run, and I'm not done."

Drew majored in history at the College, and planned to become a lawyer until an internship with the Bronx DA his sophomore year changed his mind. By the time someone appears before a judge, he thought, it already seemed too late. The following semester he began mentoring, and later tutoring, college-bound kids from the community at the Double Discovery Center. Led by people who

looked like him, he says, DDC felt like a refuge, and the affirmation and support he received there energized him.

Drew spent two years as a development officer at DDC after graduation, but kept thinking back to his days writing and editing at *Spectator*. He earned a master's at Northwestern's Medill School of Journalism in 1994 and was hired by the *Star Tribune* when his summer internship there ended. Even then, his leadership potential was clear to the reporters and editors who elected him as their union rep, and to his bosses, who began grooming him for executive roles. "I saw the first Black editor of the *Star Tribune*," says then-executive editor Tim McGuire, now retired and living in Arizona.

Born in Brooklyn and raised on Long Island, Drew felt out of place in the Twin Cities, which seemed to lack the vibrant Black middle class of his childhood. When he met another Black journalist from the East Coast, Angela Davis, they bonded over a shared passion for journalism and social justice. Neither made enough money to go out much to restaurants, so they stayed in and talked books. Eventually, the friendship grew into more; they married in 1996 and have two teenagers.

Drew's arrival at MPR last spring was greeted enthusiastically; in the newsroom, where his wife is a host, and in upper manage-

ment, where his old *Spec* pal, Dave Kansas '90, is executive VP of American Public Media Group.

Drew is widely known for his direct, tell-it-like-it-is leadership style, his compassion and his gift for spotting and nurturing talent, especially among those who have been historically marginalized.

His plans for MPR include growing its membership base by using digital tools to tell stories in new and innovative ways. Drew also wants to draw in more people of color, who are driving the Twin Cities's population boom, and now represent a fifth of all Minnesota residents. His vision overall is to make MPR more diverse and inclusive.

Journalism especially needs a multitude of voices, says Drew. "Our job is to show people to one another," he says. "Without a diverse newsroom, you're going to miss things or misinterpret things. You'll have a less authentic take on the world." He argues that inclusive workplaces are also happier: "If you create an inclusive environment, everyone benefits."

Kim Martineau JRN'97, SPS'18 is director of communications for the MIT Quest for Intelligence.

Anna Winger '93 Creates "Unorthodox" Television

By Rebecca Prime '96

Ann Winger '93 is fond of an aphorism attributed to Mark Twain: *History doesn't repeat itself, but it often rhymes*. As the writer and co-creator (with her husband, Jörg Winger) of the Cold War drama trilogy composed of *Deutschland* '83, '86 and '89, Winger has plumbed the story of divided Germany in the waning days of Communism in ways that resonate with the current decade's crisis in late capitalism. Yet the phrase seems equally relevant to her career trajectory, which while circuitous, feels propelled by an oblique logic.

As the first German-language series on American television, *Deutschland* '83 was in the vanguard of the transnational linguistic revolution ushered in by streaming services (it was released on the Sundance network in 2015). "Television was always produced for a national audience; everything was defined by language," Winger says. "*Deutschland* was a huge deal because a subtitled TV show had never been on TV in America, let alone in German. But in the course of time that we've been making the *Deutschland* trilogy, I feel like it's become normal to watch shows in their original language." *Deutschland* '89, the final installment, began streaming on Hulu in October.

For Winger, this new freedom to roam across countries, cultures and languages is a game changer. "As a writer, it opens up the possibilities of what stories can be told," she says. Her most recent project, the hit Netflix limited series *Unorthodox* — adapted from Deborah Feldman's eponymous memoir about leaving her strict Hasidic community in Brooklyn — was filmed in New York and Berlin in English, German and Yiddish. "The idea with *Unorthodox* from the very beginning was to tell it in Yiddish, because we had never seen anything in Yiddish [targeted to mainstream audiences]. Netflix went for it, and I think the show's success supports doing things true to language." Confirming

Winger's approach are the Primetime and International Emmy awards garnered by *Unorthodox* and *Deutschland* '83, respectively.

The daughter of anthropologists, Winger spent much of her childhood in Mexico and arrived at the College intending to make use of her fluent Spanish as a comparative literature major. Ironically, a gap year spent traveling in South America had the unintended effect of turning her attention toward film instead, and Winger spent her remaining two years at Columbia taking film classes in Dodge Hall. The education she received prepared the ground for her professional future in ways that she couldn't have anticipated, she says. "The Berlin Wall had just come down, so [director and film professor] Miloš Forman had hired all these guys from Central and Eastern Europe. I had an Eastern European film education," Winger notes wryly from her home in Berlin.

That said, Winger graduated with no plans to become a filmmaker. "The distance to be traveled between being the artistic driver of the material and working as a PA on a set seemed really, really far," she says.

Instead, she became a photographer, which she describes as "epic training" for her current work as a showrunner. "There's a production aspect to being a photographer and a showrunner that's very similar," she notes. Her creative pursuits also included writing a novel, *This Must Be the Place* (2008), and producing the NPR series *Berlin Stories*.



JÖRG WINGER



Winger's mid-life pivot to screenwriting was prompted by her own binge watching of the Danish dramas *Borgen* and *The Legacy*. "They reminded me of novels, in that they were so tightly structured and character driven. My husband and I watched them together and decided we could do something similar. That's how I ended up writing the pilot for *Deutschland* on spec," she says.

The locus of her artistic formation, New York, continues to be an important reference point for Winger, both in the projects she selects and the people she works with. "When we were making *Unorthodox*, having an understanding of New York culture was vital," she says. Accompanied by the show's director, production designer and costume designer, Winger spent weeks in Williamsburg "to look and touch and feel and experience that space." Adding to the sense of continuity between her New York past and Berlin present, a significant number of Winger's employees at her

production company are Columbia alumni: "It's not by design, but they find their way to me," she says.

Named Studio Airlift for its original location in Berlin's Tempelhof Airport — the site of the 1948 Berlin Airlift that circumvented the Soviet blockade choking West Berlin by airlifting in supplies — Winger's production company is likewise intended as a creative intervention. "A lot of what's going on at Airlift has to do with training writers to also be producers; that's just not the way things have traditionally been done in Germany," she says. "We have a chance to make the road by walking, because that path isn't laid out so clearly here."

Rebecca Prime '96 is the associate editor of *Film Quarterly* and the author of several books, including *Hollywood Exiles in Europe: The Blacklist and Cold War Film Culture*.

Robert Wray '06 Joins the Space Force

By Eric Butterman

Robert Wray '06 grew up like many children, spellbound by space missions and all their wonder. Year after year, shuttles ascended brightly into the cosmos, reminding us of John F. Kennedy's vision — that maybe, in time, our limits in space could be pushed through. But as years passed and NASA funding was cut, frequent American countdowns became memories from another era.

Now, Wray and others like him have a chance to embark on a new mission.

Wray has joined the U.S. Space Force, a branch of the armed forces created in late 2019 — the first new branch since the Air Force was formed in 1947. "In essence, the Space Force is like the Navy, but for space," Wray says. "It trains people on how to operate in and defend U.S. interests in space."

The goal is to expand Space Force to 16,000 members in the next few years. "I hope I can help shape space policy and the U.S. actions in space going forward," he says. "Space is a key enabler of our economy and our general way of life."

Wray, who double majored in history and political science, was in the Air Force before his move to the Space Force (his career field in the Air Force was space operations). He also works at the U.S. State Department, in the Office of Emerging Security Challenges, in a role that integrates diplomatic initiatives for military de-escalation in space. Examples, he says, are "organizing space security dialogues between the State Department and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with allies and partners, to advocate for international support for U.S. policies" and "validating treaty compliance, especially for treaties that have a provision limiting military activity."

Wray considered a future in the military early on, applying for a ROTC scholarship on September 10, 2001. The world literally changed the next day. Being in New York City post-9-11, aware of the terror threats and seeing Ground Zero, further confirmed for him the path he had chosen. "It cemented my desire to contribute and give to something bigger," he says.



U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT

But Wray isn't just thinking about what's up there. He's learned during his career that protecting space, and the technology it assists, allows everyday earthbound tasks to move forward, from paying at the pump to making investments on the New York Stock Exchange.

Commissioned by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on October 22, Wray took the next step in his space journey as a major in the Space Force. It's certainly a long way from growing up in Rhode Island, enjoying *Star Trek*.

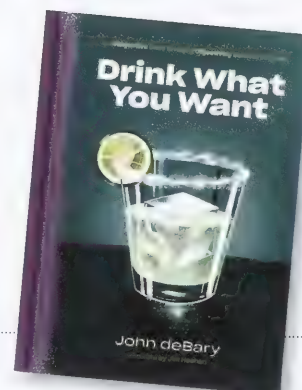
But this isn't the final frontier. For Wray, it's a new beginning.

Eric Butterman has written for many publications, including *Glamour* and *Men's Journal*. You can reach him at ericbutterman@yahoo.com.

bookshelf

Be Your Own Bartender

By Jill C. Shomer



After the year we just had, who *doesn't* have cocktails on the brain? There simply couldn't be a better time for the clever compendium *Drink What You Want: The Subjective Guide to Making Objectively Delicious Cocktails* by John deBary '05 (Clarkson Potter, \$25).

deBary honed his philosophy of cocktail making during a decade behind the bar at some of the hottest spots in the world, and as the bar director of the Momofuku restaurant group. His egalitarian teaching approach focuses less on arcane details like drink history or science, and more on helping people better understand what they like in a beverage. "I want people with no experience to be able to make drinks," he says. "I want to bring more people in."

Drink What You Want outlines the basics of ingredients, equipment and technique, then delivers the recipes in choose-your-own-adventure-style, arranged by scenarios such as Feeling Classic, Feeling Fancy and Feeling Festive. Charming illustrations and legit-funny footnotes ("like David Foster Wallace in drag," mixologist Jim Meehan says in the intro) help readers parse deBary's logic and add delightfully campy presence.

For deBary, attending the College was something of an inevitability. His grandfather was Wm. Theodore de Bary '41, GSAS'53, who all but single-handedly

established the field of East Asian Studies in the West; his father is Paul de Bary '68, BUS'71, LAW'71, and his aunts and cousins are Columbia and Barnard grads. He grew up watching football at Baker Field with his grandfather, who never missed a game, and fondly remembers strolling College Walk as a child, fantasizing about being a student.

He never expected his time at the College to lead to a bartending career. But a Thursday night class at the Columbia Bartending Agency introduced him to drink making; later, his Wallach roommate Don Lee '03 got him into nerdy food culture. After graduation, deBary went to Japan for a few months; when he returned and was looking for work, he reached out to Lee, who had become a figure in New York's craft cocktail revival scene and had recently opened the speak-easy PDT (Please Don't Tell). Lee let him train behind the bar and deBary promptly fell in love. "Bartending is immediate," he says. "It happens right in front of you; you're taking care of someone and making them happy." deBary had thought he would go to law school, but he ditched that plan and dove into cocktail books instead. "I was reading about famous bartenders from the 1860s, their recipes and philosophies, all this nerdy academic stuff that was very suited to my disposition."

Both PDT and deBary soon gained notoriety; in 2009 he started splitting his time between PDT and restaurateur David Chang's Momofuku group. He went full-time at Momofuku in 2013 and eventually became the company's first bar director,

a position he held for five years. Chang's playful and imaginative approach to cuisine challenged deBary to be innovative. "When we were opening Nishi — R.I.P. — David wanted all the drinks to be Italian without using anything from Italy," he laughs. "Having those restrictions only led to more creativity."

In his director role, deBary wrote dozens of training manuals; he also worked on *Food & Wine's* annual cocktail issue for four years, sourcing and testing recipes from all over the country. "It was great practice in developing recipes and taking notes, so that people who weren't me could understand it," he says. In 2018,



SARAH TANAT-JONES © 2020

CCT Online Extra

Get the recipe for deBary's favorite cocktail (and more!) at college.columbia.edu/cct.



he was approached to create his own book; right away he had ideas about how to make *Drink What You Want* special.

He chose illustrations over photography because he didn't want the cocktail images to be proscriptive. "I wanted something to show the idea, but it was OK if what readers made didn't exactly look that way," he says. And he wanted to appear throughout the book as a character. deBary loves both Japan and lipstick; his cartoon self is a fiercely glam *anime* star.

Teetotalers won't miss out on the fun. deBary says he sees the non-alcoholic space as a welcome challenge; there's a *Drink What You Want* chapter called Feeling Sober, and in the midst of writing, he launched Proteau, a line of zero-proof botanical drinks.

deBary is also an advocate for bar and restaurant workers. In 2015, with help from former Momofuku colleagues and his husband, Michael, a philanthropic advisor, deBary co-founded the Restaurant Workers' Community Foundation (RWCF). The nonprofit raises money, provides grants and addresses quality of life issues in the restaurant industry.

"I wanted to do something because I was aware of my own privilege. I had been given a lot of opportunities and trust right off the bat, and that isn't true for a lot of people," deBary says. "It's sort of endemic, the racial divide between front of house and back of house. It's changing for the better now, but it wasn't much of a conversation five years ago."

When the industry went into freefall almost immediately after the Covid-19 pandemic hit, RWCF set up a fund to support restaurant workers and lend stability to restaurants on their way to reopening. The Covid fund has raised more than \$7 million since March.

A true-blue Columbian, when deBary considers his place in the cocktail world, he touches on the Core. "There's this joke I would always hear in Core classes, 'You're not going to need this information when you're a doctor or a lawyer, but you'll be really good at cocktail parties.' And it's like: 'Haha, now that's my job.'"

Illustration reprinted with permission from *Drink What You Want: The Subjective Guide to Making Objectively Delicious Cocktails* by John deBary, copyright © 2020. Published by Clarkson Potter/Publishers, an imprint of Penguin Random House.



Scam Artists of the Galaxy by Thomas Wm. Hamilton '60. In his fourth work of science fiction, retired astronomer Hamilton spins a tale about creative comen who travel from planet to planet in the year 2470 (Strategic Book Publishing & Rights Agency, \$10.95).

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Stockholm: The Adrenaline-Fueled Adventures of an Accidental Scientist by Robert Lefkowitz '62. A memoir from the Nobel Prize-winning cardiologist-turned-scientist who was described by the Swedish press corps as "the happiest Laureate" (Pegasus Books, \$27.50).

When the World Laughs: Film Comedy East and West by William V. Costanzo '67. Costanzo, a SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor of English and film, describes the intersection of humor, history and culture (Oxford University Press, \$35).

Syllabus: The Remarkable, Unremarkable Document That Changes Everything by William Germano '72 and Kit Nicholls. Taking a fresh look at the syllabus, the authors suggest new ways to engage students and create more collaborative learning (Princeton University Press, \$24.95).

Some Assembly Required: Decoding Four Billion Years of Life, from Ancient Fossils to DNA by Neil Shubin '82. Shubin, a professor of organismal biology and anatomy at the University of Chicago, recounts the

evolution of human and animal life in a lively and accessible manner (Pantheon, \$26.95).

Romance in Marseille by Claude McKay; edited by William J. Maxwell '84 and Gary E. Holcomb. An early, overtly queer work of Black modernist fiction is published for the first time after being buried in an archive for almost 90 years (Penguin Classics, \$16).

The Look of the Book: Jackets, Covers and Art at the Edges of Literature by Peter Mendelsund '90 and David J. Alworth. This artful investigation into book cover design was named one of the "Best Books of 2020" by *The New York Times* (Ten Speed Press, \$50).

The Mall: A Novel by Megan McCafferty '95. The latest from bestselling YA author McCafferty is a coming-of-age story set in a New Jersey mall in 1991 (Wednesday Books, \$18.99).

Amnesty: A Novel by Aravind Ariga '97. Ariga won the 2008 Man Booker Prize for his novel *The White Tiger*; in his newest work, a young illegal immigrant must decide whether to report a murder (Scribner, \$26).

A Glorious Liberty: Frederick Douglass and the Fight for an Antislavery Constitution by Damon Root '99. How Douglass's fight for inalienable rights for all helped to shape American history in the 19th century and beyond (Potomac Books, \$26.95).

Reclaiming Her Time: The Power of Maxine Waters by Helena Andrews-Dyer '02 and R. Eric Thomas. A celebration of the life, wisdom and wit of the iconic California congresswoman (Dey Street Books, \$26.99).

The Rocket Years: How Your 20s Launch the Rest of Your Life by Elizabeth Segran '05. Through data and storytelling, Segran unpacks the reasons why the choices you make in your 20s may have the greatest impact (Harper, \$26.99).

— Jill C. Shomer

SUBMIT YOUR BOOK TO CCT

Alums! Have you written a book in the last year? Tell us about it! college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_bookshelf

classnotes



JAIME DANIES SEAS '20

A timeless
Columbia tradition
brightens winter
nights on
College Walk.

1940s

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Dr. Melvin Hershkowitz '42 (97) shared, "Dr. Gerald Klingon '42, a retired neurologist, celebrated his 100th birthday on September 22 in his apartment in Manhattan. He remains lucid, is sometimes forgetful and maintains his interests in Columbia affairs, including our athletics teams, especially football and baseball. His daughter Karen supervises his care and financial affairs."

Dick Hyman '48 writes from Venice, Fla.: "I still practice the piano, compose and occasionally play concerts in public or on Zoom. As the Florida Jazz Masters, we performed on December 6 in Sarasota.

"I have been based in Venice for about 35 years, but I no longer travel. My wife, Julia, and I met

while I was at Columbia. We've been married 72 years and have three kids and three grandchildren, one of them recently married."

We welcome news from all 1940s alumni. Please send an email to cct@columbia.edu. Wishing you a healthy and safe New Year!

1950

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Hubert "Buddy" Brandt writes: "Since my last entry my wife and I have had three great-grandchildren, with another on the way! We have sold our house on Long Island and moved into an apartment near Columbia. I still harass assessors through my law practice — I have to pay the monthly maintenance on the apartment! I often wonder how many of our class still are around. I would

enjoy hearing from any. Call me: 212-563-2201. Stay safe/wear a mask."

Classmates would enjoy hearing from you, too! Send your news to cct@columbia.edu. Wishing you a safe and healthy New Year.

1951

REUNION 2021

MAY 24–JUNE 3 (virtual)

JUNE 4–5 (in-person,
conditions permitting)

Events and Programs Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact
ccfund@columbia.edu

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

No notes to share from classmates this time, but please consider joining in the Columbia Reunion



2021 events this spring! As of late October, the Alumni Office is planning virtual events Monday, May 24–Thursday, June 3, and in-person events Friday, June 4–Saturday, June 5, conditions permitting. Watch your inbox for more.

Classmates would enjoy hearing how you are. Please send news to cct@columbia.edu. Wishing you a safe, healthy New Year.

1952

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Robert J. Muscat JRN'53, GSAS'64, of Sarasota, Fla., writes: "Two memories worth sharing. When the Class of '52 first assembled for a welcoming address by the University's new president, Dwight D. Eisenhower, he told us, in effect, that books were OK, but he really wanted us to get out there on the playing fields. More consequential is my memory of the inspiring classes of Professor Moses Hadas in the histories, literature and ideas of the ancient Greeks. He had lifelong influence on my thinking, values and worldview. Look him up on Wikipedia. And read his book *Humanism: The Greek Ideal and Its Survival*, before it's too late.

"As for me, after a year with the J-School and getting an economics Ph.D. from Columbia, I had a career as a development economist — USAID, the World Bank and so forth, including many years living abroad. Life in the 'deep state' can be professionally very satisfying. I married a CCNY grad and have three children and three grandchildren."

Classmates would enjoy hearing from you, too! Send your news to cct@columbia.edu. Wishing you a safe and healthy New Year.

Class Notes are submitted by alumni and edited by volunteer class correspondents and the staff of CCT prior to publication. Opinions expressed are those of individual alumni and do not reflect the opinions of CCT, its class correspondents, the College or the University. By submitting to Class Notes, you acknowledge that the text is eligible to appear in print as well as on CCT Online and in archives.

1953

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Anthony Robinson GSAS'60 of New Paltz, N.Y., writes, "As for some highlights of my life or career, I was a Lt. (jg) on the *U.S.S. Owen* for three years after Columbia, serving in the Pacific as the Korean War was ending. That experience was the basis for my first novel, *A Departure from the Rules* (1960). I have, in all, published eight novels. My last, *Father of The Man* (2018), is a semi-autobiographical novel about my early life in the Maverick Art Colony in Woodstock, N.Y., growing up with my father, Henry Morton Robinson CC 1923, as he was writing *The Cardinal* (1950). I earned an M.A. from Columbia in 1960 and taught American literature and creative writing at SUNY New Paltz for 36 years. I grew up in Woodstock and have spent the last 40 years in New Paltz. I have two children, Jennifer and Henry. I am finishing a novel, working title *Half of Paradise*."

Dr. Donald A. Taylor, of Holiston, Mass., graduated from Weill-Cornell Medical School in 1957. He writes, "I'm a retired radiologist. I have five children and five grandchildren. My radiology practice was in Chestnut Hill, Mass., from 1977 to 2010, with a subspecialty in mammography."

Dr. Allan E. Jackman PS'57 (aka "DR AJAX," as on his personalized license plate) lives in Mill Valley, Calif., and writes: "I was sports editor of *Spectator* and have remained a big sports fan ever since. You might not believe this, but in 1932, Columbia had the best football team in the entire Ivy League, beating rival Stanford 7–0 in the Rose Bowl in sunny California on New Year's Day in 1934. This would be equivalent now to our Super Bowl. And this is how I came to meet Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower. As the famed general returned to New York City rather than to his hometown of Abilene, Kan., I just happened to meet him at a Homecoming Game at Baker Field. I later found out that Ike, who was a big, solid fellow, as most Kansas football players are, played in a guard position at West Point. During halftime of the Homecoming game against Harvard (which the Lions won,

COLUMBIA SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS

BC	Barnard College
BUS	Columbia Business School
CP	Pharmaceutical Sciences
DM	College of Dental Medicine
GS	School of General Studies
GSAPP	Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation
GSAS	Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
HN	Institute of Human Nutrition
JRN	Graduate School of Journalism
JTS	Jewish Theological Seminary
LAW	Columbia Law School
LS	Library Service
NRS	School of Nursing
PH	Mellman School of Public Health
PS	College of Physicians and Surgeons
SEAS	The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science
SIPA	School of International and Public Affairs
SOA	School of the Arts
SPS	School of Professional Studies
SW	School of Social Work
TC	Teachers College
UTS	Union Theological Seminary

14–0, I was standing with my friend **Louie Soloway** when he suddenly asked me to turn around. As I did, I found myself right next to Ike, and Louie snapped a picture of Ike and me!

"I just read the Fall 2020 issue of *CCT*, which arrived about a month before my 88th birthday, October 31. I celebrated the occasion with several friends at a restaurant, socially distanced and with masks (except while we were eating), due to the horrific Covid-19 pandemic. Marin County, located just north of San Francisco via the beautiful Golden Gate Bridge, is an isolated, suburban place, with a population of just 250,000. We have experienced only 13 deaths due to this virus and so far, none of them were friends or acquaintances of mine.

"I am very happy that at 88, I am long retired from medicine. The doctors still on duty at our only county hospital, Marin Health Medical Center, which has 300 beds, have been working their gluteus maximus muscles off, caring for the very sick and often dying patients, filling the ER with ICU beds.

"I am delighted to report that I am in very good general health, although I am on a blood thinner, Eliquis, for a chronic atrial fibrillation problem that began when I was

42. At the time, I had to undergo a 'balloon angioplasty,' which was indeed a painful procedure that I had to endure for eight minutes. Now I know what an acute heart attack feels like, and I hope that mine, which will probably come within the next decade, arrives in the middle of the night while I am sound asleep and that I just don't wake up the next morning.

"I have led a very good life so far. I have visited every continent and most countries except Ireland. I was married for 40 years to a lovely woman, Vivian, who blessed me with two sons. Owen is a junior high school teacher in Sacramento, and Russell, a workers compensation consultant, lives in Novato, Calif. For the past 21 years I have been living in Mill Valley with my lovely girlfriend, Evelyn Topper. I will be quite happy in electing our 46th President next week and [hope] a member of the Democratic Party will once again inhabit the White House.

"My closing thoughts are these: If you have managed to continue reading this long note thus far, I have led a very good life with one exception being a malpractice case about a breast cancer diagnosis that I missed in my 40s and for which I settled for \$250,000, the limits of my insurance policy. I later learned from one of

the 12 jurors at my trial that I was, indeed, innocent, but the jury felt sad for the woman dying of breast cancer, who would be leaving behind a young child, because I had not ordered a newly developed radiographic technique of mammography. But as my loving father once said — and he was a very wise man and a practicing civil attorney — ‘In life you win a few and lose a few good cases.’ That was wise advice!

“And so I end this note with the recognition that I have survived 88 good and also bad years and that I may live long enough to see Joe Biden inaugurated as our next POTUS, in January 2021!”

Jay B. Kane, of Darien, Conn., writes: “Here’s a story from my first year at Columbia about events that influenced my life.

“Some 70 years ago I rowed on Columbia’s freshman lightweight crew. This was a life-changing experience because only a year earlier I was a sickly kid in Brooklyn recovering from many months of rheumatic fever that left me weighing 140 lbs. and with a heart murmur. Remarkably, some friends I met through my roommate **Mitch Price** when I arrived at Columbia talked me into trying out for lightweight crew that September. With my medical history this made no sense at all, but did lead me to work out frequently on rowing machines at the gym to improve my health and help me make the crew the next spring.

“In 1950 our freshman crew was quite successful in that we won nearly every race against Ivy League schools, losing only to Yale on the Housatonic River and then again in the Head of the Charles Regatta on the Charles River in Boston, where we came in second of six or seven boats. Yale was positioned at the other end of the line and a valid claim was that we lost because we couldn’t see the Yale boat slightly ahead due to the spray from the oars near the finish line.

“After one of the races, in the locker room at Baker Field, I met Raymond C. Knox, the retired University chaplain and a lifelong oarsman who rowed for Columbia many decades earlier. He and his wife happened to live in Old Greenwich, close to where my parents had moved. He had access to a few skulls and recruited me as coach in an attempt to start a crew at Greenwich

H.S. He also entered me in the New England sculling championship on the Charles River, where I had rowed just a few months earlier. After managing second place in that race too, I quit rowing because of my parents’ concerns about the heart murmur. But I was hooked on the water for recreation and to relax from the pressures of trust banking for institutions, so that most of my life I kept a cruising sailboat at the Riverside Yacht Club in Greenwich, in addition to maintaining a membership in the New York Yacht Club.

“When I turned 82 my son suggested that I build a home next to his place in Darien on the Fivemile River, close to Long Island Sound. Now each summer I enjoy viewing his sailboat, which he named after my late wife, Mimi, moored a short distance from my back porch.

“Note: Most members of the class knew of **Mitch Price** because he was quarterback. Mitch was frequently the topic of newspaper reports, along with Lou Little, Columbia’s famous football coach, prior to the days of professional football.”

Classmates would be interested in your stories, too! Share current news and stories from days past with *CCT* using the email at the top of the column. Wishing you a healthy, happy and safe New Year.

1954

Bernd Brecher
brecherservices@aol.com

This quarter I’m just thinking out loud. Where are we as a class, as alumni, as a College, as a university, as a nation? Or as individuals, as people, or persons? This column went to bed within a week of yet-to-come Election Day. We have hopes, thoughts, and assumptions, but no insider true or false information. Whoever is in the White House, or controls the Congress, for the next four years — or 40 — his/her life ain’t going to be easy for them or for us.

Soooo, think ahead with me, to *Tikkun Olam* (“Help Cure the World”) and give me your thoughts for our Spring/Summer column. Meanwhile, here is some winter news:

Samuel Barondes PS’58 writes, “Thanks, Bernd, it’s been a long time!” in response to my good wishes and request for news to share

with ’54 classmates. “I’m happy to report that my wife, Louann, and I are making the most of sheltering in place in our home in Sausalito on the San Francisco Bay. We are very grateful to be able to enjoy these privileged golden years despite the challenging times.”

Sam is pleased to share that “after more than 50 years on the faculty of the University of California, first as a founding professor of psychiatry at the UC San Diego School of Medicine in 1969 and, since 1986, in many roles at UC San Francisco, the university has established The Samuel Barondes Endowed Chair in Neuro-

architectural firm in San Francisco; and Adrian has established a reputation as a ceramicist who developed a method of firing large hollow-core ceramic figures.”

I was pleased to get a call from **Harvey Rubin** SEAS’58, who despite being at our reunion in 2019 did not have a chance to do more than “chew the fat.” We had a rewarding catch-up conversation, but were not able to meet the copy deadline for this issue. Harvey is well, back in Larchmont, N.Y., with a grandson who’s a sophomore at Columbia, but his *geschichte* will have to wait for Spring/Summer.

A gift from Milton Edelin ’54, GSAPP’57 is the largest ever made to the Architecture School by a Black alumnus; its impact will be felt for generations.

biology and Psychiatry at UCSF. It will be occupied by Dr. Anna Victoria Molofsky Ph.D., a brilliant young neurobiologist and psychiatrist.”

Congratulations, Sam! We are proud of you.

Members of our Class of Destiny, if I had not asked, Sam would not have told — please, all, share your good news NOW. Do not wait to be personally asked, much as I love “getting in touch.”

Another correspondent, **Joseph Arleo** GSAS’56, writes: “My wife, Lillian, and I decamped across the road from our daughter Elizabeth’s house in Sharon, Conn., in mid-March to escape the coronavirus and, to paraphrase Hermione Gingold, ‘We’re still here.’ The bad news, of course, remains the Trump presidency but I hope by the time this sees print he’ll be gone (I think part of the ‘Destiny’ of our class was to survive his tenure).”

Joe says he’s still seeing patients, “or rather having phone sessions with them — and looking forward to getting back to my office in the Village when this pandemic dissipates. And now a brief CV of our children: Elizabeth was recently promoted to full professor of radiology at Weill Cornell Medical Center and is the mother of three sweet girls; Michael recently retired as chief, quality control, of Rolls-Royce Engines; Ted partners with his wife as head of their

The Architecture School recently announced a gift from **Milton Edelin** GSAPP’57 that will have a long-lasting impact on incoming students. From the announcement: “The funding that established the Milton and Yvonne Edelin Scholarship represents the largest gift to GSAPP ever from a Black alumnus. Its impact will be felt for generations, helping and attracting and retaining a greater diversity of students. ‘I know how hard it was for me as a young person to balance working and attending graduate school, and it costs so much more to attend now,’ Edelin says. ‘I believe if you can just get to school, you can do good things.’”

Milton shares with the class, “In addition, for many, many years, I donated at the John Jay Associates member level to the Columbia College Scholarship Fund for Black Students. And further, another family member, Dr. Kenneth Edelin ’61, my late brother and first Black chief resident at Boston University Medical Center Hospital, established a medical scholarship at the Boston University School of Medicine for disadvantaged and Black students and has a square named for him at Boston University. So, lots of family gifting and outreach to help disadvantaged and minority students by a couple of Columbia College Black graduates.”

Thanks, Milt, for sharing this personal and important news with us.



"I finally retired as director of allergy at NewYork-Presbyterian Queens Hospital, where I had been since 1976," writes **Stanley Fine** PS'57. "At 87 it was time. I'm enjoying full retirement. My significant other and I flew to Auckland in mid-February (just in time) and boarded a ship for 18 days, winding up in French Polynesia. Bora Bora must be as close to Eden as we have on Earth."

They got home a week before everything closed down, says Stan, and he thanks "God for computer bridge."

Looks like you two have found the true meaning of retirement, i.e., full. Blessings on both your heads. (We're all just jealous!)

We heard sad news from **Walter A. Bossert Jr.**'s daughter Ellen '86, who shared his obituary: "Walter A. Bossert Jr. was born in Manhattan on October 5, 1932. He joined the law firm of Gould & Wilkie, serving for 34 years, 19 as senior partner. During his tenure, he was general counsel to well-known corporations, including Lord & Taylor and Tiffany & Co."

"In 1980, Walter, along with his partner, Davison Grant, and renowned lawyer, Telford Taylor, chief prosecutor of the Nuremberg Trials, successfully argued before the Supreme Court of the United States, case (447 U.S. 557) — *Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation v. Public Service Commission of New York*. This landmark case is still studied in law schools in regard to First Amendment rights."

"He was a graduate of the College and University of Virginia Law School and served in the Air Force 1954–57 as a lieutenant commander and a top-secret security officer during the Korean War — most notably at Rushmore Air Force Station during the Suez Crisis of 1956."

Walter is survived by his wife, Mariel; son, William; and daughters, Ellen '86 and Laura. Our sincerest condolences to the Bossert family.

[Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

Ronald Sugarman, an active member of our 65th Reunion Committee, shared his life under Covid-19: "My wife, Hisako, and I have been following the protocols, and so far, so good," he writes. "Some habits have changed because of Covid, but we're managing to cope with assists from Instacart, Amazon and Zoom and by adhering to the cautions regarding masking, distancing and proper hygiene."

He says he's catching up on his reading while his wife "spends a lot of time practicing the Argentine tango and 'going to' Met Operas on her mobile phone. And then there's Zoom. Prior to Covid-19, I had twice-weekly lunches with a group of guys who've been my friends for more than 80 years. Now we do twice-weekly two-hour lunchtime meetings on Zoom, which offer a different kind of nourishment."

Thanks Ron, for your overview and coping guide, and your personal comment about RBG: "A sad note is the passing of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg LAW'59. Ruth (aka Kiki) and I were classmates at James Madison H.S. Not ever close but always friendly. Over the years she'd attend significant reunions and a couple of smallish dinners to which I feel fortunate to have been invited."

A song that I, Bernd, wrote for one of my non-lockdown summertime shows while in college, had the following opening verses: "I know where I'm going and I know where I've been / the only thing that bothers me is the current mess I'm in." The show was not based on reality, neither "then" nor now, but give me your takes as we look ahead to our Class of Destiny's 70th anniversary.

As a point of departure: Columbia's self-managed Marching Band has dissolved itself after 116 years; give me your thoughts, especially if you are a band alumnus. As always, call, write, email, carrier pigeon, whatever — just stay in touch.

Alas, the first cinema James Bond (for me, the only one) recently passed; let me know *you're* still here. Be well, stay well. With luv, Bernd. Excelsior!

1955

Gerald Sherwin
gs481@juno.com

Not much new since the Fall 2020 issue. Masks are seen on campus, which is still mostly on lockdown and continues to have remote learning for almost all students. No winter sports, and no football and basketball practices. No alumni events last fall or this winter.

Thinking of **Jack Freeman**, **Dick Kuhn**, **Berish Strauch**, **Allen Hyman**, **Howard Sussman**, **Mar-**

vin Winell, **Sheldon Wolf**, **Elliot Gross** and **John Crocker**.

We'll get back to normal soon. In the meantime, think ahead to Columbia Reunion 2021. As of late October, the Alumni Office is planning virtual events for Monday, May 24–Thursday, June 3, and in-person events Friday, June 4–Saturday, June 5, conditions permitting. Watch your inbox for more.

Love to all! Everywhere!

1956

REUNION 2021

MAY 24–JUNE 3 (virtual)

JUNE 4–5 (in-person, conditions permitting)

Events and Programs Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact
ccfund@columbia.edu

Robert Sirotky
rrs76@columbia.edu

Congratulations to **Ralph Kaslick** DM'62, recipient of a 2020 Columbia Alumni Association Columbia Alumni Medal. Originally intended to be awarded at Commencement in 2020, it will instead be awarded at Commencement this year. It is a well-earned and well-deserved recognition of his contribution to academic life at Columbia.

Jim Mooney writes from Milford, Pa., that he is retired and in good health, and that he and his wife, Doris, are celebrating their 63-year partnership.

I heard from **Ron Kapon**, **Ed Botwinick**, **Joost Oppenheim**, **Harold Sturtz** and **Alan Broadwin** with varying responses re: a possible Zoom reunion. Ed offers large acreage in Virginia if we all bring sleeping bags or tents. He reports that he hasn't had a haircut since mid-February, and that his family is calling him "Maestro."

Leo Laporte GSAS'60 earned a Ph.D. in geology at GSAS, then taught at Brown before moving to the new UC Santa Cruz campus. He is the author of a 2000 book, and many articles regarding paleontology, from the Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences at UCSC. He resides in Redwood City, Calif.

Philip Liebson and his wife, Carole, have moved to a co-op

in Willmette, Ill., right at Lake Michigan. He works once a week in the Preventive Cardiology Clinic at Rush University Medical Center, doing many visits by telemetry. Philip has submitted 23 essays to the Chicago Literary Club, and continues to play the piano.

Dave Goler writes from Florida that he is no longer seeing patients and is riding out this pandemic.

Murray Watnick retired from the practice of radiology and is working with the WHO to bring basic radiology services to underserved areas of South Africa. He has consulted with **Frank Thomas**. Murray writes that "a major ongoing project is progressing in Guatemala." To learn more about the project, go online to Radiology for the People: A Basic Radiological System for Health Care in Developing Nations (link: bit.ly/2UjLJs).

On a sad note, I must report the deaths of Dr. **Harold Markowitz** on January 19, 2020, and **Socrates Nicholas** on October 19, 2020. Socrates was a member of The 1754 Society, and sat for five years on the University's Board of Trustees. Additionally, he sat on the advisory board of the Metropolitan Opera. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

Regarding reunion, I suggest that you respond to the virtual class book with stories and pictures. It looks good, and is only for us. There are no ties to any fundraising or other solicitations.

[Editor's note: As of late October, the Alumni Office is planning Columbia Reunion 2021 as virtual events Monday, May 24–Thursday, June 3, and in-person events Friday, June 4–Saturday, June 5, conditions permitting. Watch your inbox for more.]

Stay safe and stay well.

1957

Herman Levy
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Peter Caroline: "One of my fondest memories of my junior and senior years was my job working in the stacks at the library. I got paid \$20 for 20 hours' work. This paid for my meals, cigarettes, booze and walking-around money for a week. At lunchtime, I'd walk into a nearby restaurant on Amsterdam Avenue and the proprietor would call out, 'Pair rare and a side of French!' Best burgers ever!"

Michael A. Ferragamo: "Having practiced urology for close to 35 years, I am now retired from active practice for more than 20 years. I live with my wife of 60 years, Maria, in Garden City, N.Y., and am a coding consultant for urology-related practices, such as private practices, hospitals and academic institutions such as Lahey Hospital & Medical Center, Indiana Urology, Duke Urology and many others. Would love to hear from classmates, especially others who became urologists and also were members of the 150-lb. football team that played in those years ... Call me at 516-721-8149."

Mac Gimse: "When I was growing up, I was told that the purpose of education was to take *learning into life*. When I arrived at Columbia, a National Merit Scholar and a lonely lad from Minot, N.D., I discovered that the purpose of the liberal arts education was to take a *love of learning into life*. The Core Curriculum gave me a passion for learning all over the world in vastly different cultures that are not lesser versions of my own. I became excited to learn new languages. I was unafraid to follow religious practices wherever I found them."

"The Core led me to be a college professor in the liberal arts, teaching hundreds of students on dozens of programs abroad. My basic course was 'Monuments to Power and Faith' and my class format was lecture and discussion, based on our experiences as we moved through the world for up to five months each time. Our studies embraced politics, religion and the fine arts, each of which had a

'visual culture' attached. I also taught 'The History of World Architecture' and 'The Visual Cultures of Asia,' as well as 'Great Conversations,' a five-semester study of Western civilization. None of this is boasting when I see my source of inspiration and teaching techniques that I learned in my CC and Hum courses at Columbia. Outside of classes there were the discussions and debates in the Quad (i.e., everywhere on campus). The laboratory for my Art Hum and Music Hum was New York City. Columbia gave me solid intellectual ground where I could live and teach the rest of my life."

Erich Gruen: "The era of Covid-19 has, of course, brought some severe restrictions. There are no more travels of any distance, and no (live) visits with children and grandchildren. Being at home 24/7 with my wife, Ann, is a true test of a marriage. But we have passed that test most successfully and continue to enjoy each other's company. Zoom has been a most welcome support for our social life. We Zoom almost every day with one or more members of the family or with friends. And during the last couple of months we have been so bold as to invite friends for drinks on the patio in our back garden, two at a time and properly distanced, usually once or twice a week. So, we have not succumbed to isolation. I managed to participate in an international conference via Zoom and even led a seminar through Zoom as a guest at Harvard. And the extra time on my hands has allowed me to complete my book *Ethnicity in the Ancient World — Did it Matter?*, which was published in September."

"The days, weeks and months pass all too quickly. More than a dozen of my former graduate students are now retired (!), a stern reminder of the number of years I have been in this academic business. But we remain in good health and hope very much to resume contact with some of our Columbia classmates."

Julie Schachter: "After 60 years of research on chlamydia at UC San Francisco, I closed my lab last summer. I hadn't planned to do research on STDs, but serendipity always plays a role, and living in SF through the Summer(s) of Love provided plenty of opportunity. Chlamydial infections were relatively new, and this gave us chances to make real

contributions to public health. And we did that, including first description of chlamydia pneumoniae in infants, showing that screening pregnant women for chlamydiae and treating the infected women prevented infection of newborns (this quickly became standard of care in the United States and in many other countries) and proof of concept study showing that community-wide treatment of trachoma (the world's leading infectious cause of blindness) with azithromycin was effective. This is now the linchpin of a WHO-sponsored effort at eliminating blinding trachoma as a public health issue."

"I've kept my UC appointment and hope to spend the next few years analyzing data and writing up the last few studies. Looking back, I recall the usual academic frustrations, getting funding and so on, but all in all, it has been a blast."

Jacques Ullman: "At a time when we are so preoccupied with the outcome of the election, it is a bit strange to be writing a Class Note that will be published after the results are in. Let's hope that, in this final phase of our lives, we don't have to witness our democracy continue to be destroyed."

"During this confinement, my wife, Muriel, and I are lucky to be living in Sausalito, Calif., where we can look out at the beautiful bay and walk in the hills. I have plenty of carpentry tools and finally have the time to finish out details on our old house, which through the years we have totally gutted and opened up. We have an urban garden with flowers and vegetables, and Muriel paints a beautiful watercolor of it every day. Since retiring from my architectural practice three years ago I have been active in helping Sausalito improve its public spaces. Covid-19 robbed us of our customary two summer months at our converted barn in rural southwest France. We had a nice visit with Roy Wolff there a few years ago."

Gene Wagner and Ed Weinstein: "Gene and Ed have become fast friends after renewing a friendship begun during Freshman Orientation in September 1953. They were roommates in a three-person suite in John Jay Hall. Gene never forgave Ed for taking the only single bed, leaving the others to share a double bunk bed. (He still enjoys ragging Ed about this episode.)

"Their friendship was discontinued when Gene went to NYU Dental School in 1956. Gene then served as an officer in the Air Force for two years, after which he set up a dental office in New York while living in Chappaqua, N.Y. Ed went to the Wharton School for an M.B.A. and then entered practice, joining a large national firm in 1958, becoming a C.P.A. in 1961 and a partner in the firm in 1968. Gene and Ed reconnected at a CC'57 reunion."

"By this time Gene had relocated to Pacific Palisades, Calif., but continued to own an apartment on New York City's Upper East Side. Gene gradually left practicing dentistry, becoming an inventor of dental care products. He started a company that sold his products throughout the USA in leading retail stores. Gene had begun to come back to NYC, as it was conveniently near many pharmaceutical companies interested in licensing his products. He eventually sold his company but continued inventing and licensing his technology to leading health and pharmaceutical companies."

"Meanwhile, Ed had migrated south to run his firm's Philadelphia office in the early '80s, and then returned to its NYC practice later in the decade. Having moved his residence from South Orange, N.J., to Philadelphia, he and his wife, Sandra, decided to take up residence in Manhattan, on East 56th Street. Ed retired from his firm after 40 years and became a forensic C.P.A., a second career that lasted 20 years."

"Once Gene began returning to NYC, it wasn't long before he and Ed took up their interrupted friendship. They began having lunch in NYC when Gene was in town on business. Later, as Gene's wife, Judy, began to come to NYC with him, the twosome became a foursome. Thus, a long-ago friendship was revitalized over subjects including politics, history, museums and other NYC distractions, and Columbia events (both of Ed's children followed him to the College and two of his granddaughters are College sophomores). Gene also resumed a friendship with Herb Sturman (Ed's fraternity brother and longtime friend) and recently presented Herb with a Maltese companion dog, which Herb named Harvey."

"The pandemic interrupted Ed and Gene's contacts until Gene

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college.columbia.edu/alumni/connect.



felt comfortable flying to NYC again. He and Ed then had lunch at Morso, near Ed's home, in mid-September, and were scheduled for a repeat at Beach, near Gene's alternate residence, in mid-October.

"Their friendship has existed for 67 years and continues, having survived a 25-year hiatus and now a pandemic. They never tire of each other, stimulating subjects to talk about or their zest for life. Gene recently gave up his creative dental inventor second career, and Ed continues as a forensic C.P.A. until he completes an expert testimony engagement, which seems to never end."

1958

Peter Cohn
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The effects of the Covid-19 pandemic are still very much with us as this column was submitted in mid-October. New York City is carefully reopening some indoor spaces (restaurants, museums) that have not been available since mid-March. Meanwhile, Columbia's fall term was virtual and all fall sports were canceled. Alas, no visits to the Baker Athletics Complex to (briefly, of course) regain one's long-lost youth. Oh, well Whether this situation will continue into the spring is unclear, especially as fears of a "second wave" are widespread.

When it comes to class news, **Steve Jonas** has provided an update on his recent activities: "I hope everyone is doing as well as can be expected in this horrible time in our nation. It is a time that could have been prevented, I may say with some certainty as a career public health physician, if the President had undertaken the same measures that were followed in almost every other developed country in the world (with the notable exception of the United Kingdom). As it happens, my major occupation at this time, coming up on the seventh anniversary of my retirement from the Department of Family, Population & Preventive Medicine at Stony Brook Medicine, is writing political columns that are regularly published on OpEdNews.com, BuzzFlash.com and Writing for Godot on Reader-SupportedNews.org.

"On the personal side, as some of you know, my dear wife, Chezna

Newman, passed away on October 18, 2018. Since then, I have found happiness with Lee Gruzen, widow of well-known New York architect Jordan Gruzen. My children, Jacob Jonas, Lillian Jonas and Mark Newman, are all well, as are my four grandchildren."

Bert Hirschhorn PS'62 also contributed to this issue: "I've returned to the United States after two decades abroad working in public health, the story told in my memoir (bertzpoet.com/memoir). I've also published six collections of poetry (bertzpoet.com/poetry-3). We live on the banks of the Mississippi River, in Minneapolis, one old man looking over another Old Man."

As a medical scientist, Bert has become world renowned for his anti-cholera achievements. He demonstrated the validity of using oral rehydration therapies to save untold numbers of lives, especially in third-world countries where intravenous hydration is not always readily available.

Not all news is good news. Eleanor Siegel writes of the death of her husband, **Arthur Siegel** BUS'60: "Art was hired by Price Waterhouse in 1960 after earning an A.B. and an M.B.A. from Columbia. He worked in PW's New York City, Long Island, Boston and national offices. He was an engagement partner in Boston and then became national director of accounting services and later vice-chair of audit. Art was also a member of the U.S. and World Firm's Management Committees. As an undergraduate, he was president of the Pre-Engineering Society until he changed his major to economics, and he was advertising manager of *Spectator*. Art was a member of Phi Sigma Delta, where he made lifelong friendships with Fred Knauer '59, SEAS'60 and Ira Jolles '59. He graduated second in his class at the Business School, where he was a Newington Scholar and treasurer of the *Graduate Business News*. We were married in 1960 and have three children, Joan, Linda and Mark '89, and six grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be sent to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society."

Our condolences to the family. Unfortunately, there will always be deaths to report now that we are in our 80s, but please keep sending news items, as well. As of this writing no word yet when the class luncheons will resume.

1959

Norman Gelfand
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Starting with pleasant news, **Ben Haimowitz** reports: "After writing press releases for 40 years, I've regressed and have lately published two books of fiction: a novel, *Baby Steps*, *Giant Steps*, and a collection of short stories, *To the Parade: Tales Low and High of the City*."

Bill Frye writes, "Still at it, and thought I would bring everyone up to date to a certain extent. I finally retired from my law practice and my firm, Trenam Law, which I helped found more than 50 years ago. It was a great run, and I would love to do it again, even accepting some jury verdicts I was not happy with."

"These days I have been maintaining with the help of my wonderful wife (we have been married more than 59 years) and our caregivers. It seems I have a neurological condition that at best can be maintained and, in combination with the coronavirus, we are pretty much confined to the house. I read a lot, argue with the TV and generally try to figure out how in the world our government and politics have reached such a sorry state. In any event, I hope we get through it, along with our government."

"As I neared my retirement, I thought I would be looking at days on the golf course, fishing and travel. Unfortunately, it has not worked out that way, but serves as another reminder that we never know what is around the corner. So, if anyone is looking for advice, here it is: Get it done now and don't wait until tomorrow. My best wishes to all."

From **Bruce Schlein** we hear, "It has been a while since I communicated, and I am fixing that. My wife, Alice, and I are well and still able to do our 'things.' Alice is producing wonderful weavings, teaching weaving at various local venues, actively blogging (weaverly.typepad.com), designing weavings and producing weaving monographs, not to mention keeping me in line."

"I am pursuing my photography and have gotten into a few juried shows at the SE Center for Photography, which has an international reach. I regularly blog my photographs (cameralucidity.wordpress.com) and teach photography at our

local Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Furman University.

"We have moved to a continuing care community and fortunately have not yet required the care part of the game and live independently in a modest house, which, as you might guess, Alice has filled with looms and I have filled with stereo stuff."

"Our boys, Willy and Erik, are doing well. Willy is here in Greenville, S.C., with two almost-grown-up children, Karl at Clemson and Catalina in high school. Willy is a practicing architect and leads a group of healthcare architects in the company for which he works. Erik is attending the CUNY School of Law and enjoying it."

"I do miss my practice of pathology, including the folks I worked with and the helping to solve problems of figuring out what sick people have and helping their clinicians fix them."

Ira Friedman writes, "The [Fall 2020 Class Notes] that you sent are among the saddest I have ever read, but I am grateful that you sent them. They remind me that I should try harder to see things as they are, not only as I wish them to be. As a Semite since birth, I get pissed off by anti-Semitism. To find it less checked at my college makes me wonder what is going on. Professor William Casey taught me that it is a mistake to see things as 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 when they are actually 2, 4, 6, 8, 10. At least, I think that was what he was teaching."

"I knew **David Horowitz** at school well enough to say hello to him. I think he went to high school with my then-girlfriend. But I have not been able to recognize him for a long time from his writings. Even though I wholly disagree with what he has to say, I will defend to the death his right to say it. (Where is the *Trib* when you really need it?)"

"I thought that as we got older we would get wiser. I live in a nice house in New Hope, Pa., with my wife of 30 years. We are comfortable. We stay in the house much of the time during this pandemic, as we would even without the pandemic. I bike the neighborhood, go to grocery stores, listen to music and so on. I am living almost the same life as I did before the pandemic, but now, because I have to rather than because I choose to."

"Columbia didn't prepare me to get all the answers all the time. But,



COURTESY FRANK WILSON '59

In summer 1958, the *U.S.S. Ranger* departed Norfolk, Va., with 200 Naval Reserve officers onboard for a two-month cruise that took it around Cape Horn. Shown here enjoying some R&R while ashore in Lima, Peru, are (left to right) William Jackson, Shelby Brewer '59, Sam Tindall '59, Frank Wilson '59 and Thomas James '59.

still, it was of my best experiences. Roar, Lion, Roar."

Herb Stern sent the following to his SAM fraternity brothers in 2019 for our 60th reunion: "Looking back on the last 60 years, I'm delighted to report that I think I have, in a small way, made a 'difference.' And, I've enjoyed a very full life so far. I have been lucky in business, in love, in life and in family. My life trajectory, quite different from most of my classmates, has been the right one for me.

"A few personal highlights. My most important contributions to the world are my three wonderful daughters. My oldest is a cantor (providing spiritual comfort) in the Boston area, my second is a Ph.D. civil engineer whose climate model informed The Paris Agreement and the youngest, a teacher, is still at home raising the two youngest (4 and 6) of my seven grandchildren.

"Life has an unpredictable shape to it. I lost two beloved wives to cancer, but am now blessed with a life partner, with whom I laugh all day long. I didn't finish my Columbia studies until 1960. I left school in my senior year for the six-month active duty Army program. After a stint at the Boston University School of Law, and a dalliance with investment banking, I went to work for a red-blooded manufacturer and found the kind of challenge and reward that engaged me for decades. I discovered that I am a 'doer'! I build businesses and manage people. I ascended from the shop floor to chief operating officer of an 11-plant, 3,200-person organization,

ultimately selling the business at an inflection point. That experience propelled me to other entrepreneurial ventures, including launching an insurance agency that I eventually sold to Citigroup; a web-based provider of bookkeeping services that is still flourishing; and an energy storage company that recently landed a \$75 million contract to build renewable (wind and solar) energy storage pilots that represent the future of our electrical grid.

"What gets me up in the morning these days? I partnered with my son-in-law, head of gastroenterology at Dartmouth, and a talented team to co-found the pharmaceutical drug development company ColonyConcepts, which is tackling colorectal cancer screening with a bold innovation: a meal kit that transforms the prep from a nightmare into a fairly tasty and accessible process. We've completed successful Phase 2 clinical trials and are on the path to secure FDA approval; we're also launching Phase 2 trials for a chronic idiopathic constipation bar.

"I have always been grateful for what life offered me and committed myself to pay back over the last 50 years. I have served on countless civic and philanthropic boards and held impactful positions such as president of my synagogue and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Rhode Island. My single greatest satisfaction in this arena was building the Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial, a public memorial on the waterfront in downtown Providence.

"I'm a licensed pilot (I own a twin-engine Cessna), play golf and enjoy travel, reading and opera, and have the palpable pleasure of watching and experiencing my grandchildren growing up.

"In sum, it has been an exhilarating adventure. I really believe that much of my success derived from my Columbia education. If the saying 'knowledge is power' has real meaning, Columbia gave us that 'power'!

"I would add one statement: The Core Curriculum so honed our minds, giving us such a deep breadth of knowledge and the wisdom to listen to, evaluate and challenge ideas, that I always considered myself advantaged in almost every aspect of life. Columbia wasn't always fun (we worked hard at learning), but it still informs me as to who I am!"

It is my sad duty to report the death of **J. Michael Stern** GSAS'61 on August 2, 2020, at Sibley Hospital in Washington D.C. Michael (81) peacefully left this world following a sudden illness. His beloved wife of 60 years, Joyce (née Duran), was at his side. I have extracted some words from an obituary prepared by his wife for *The Washington Post*: "Michael held a B.A. and M.A. from Columbia University. Commencing with positions in the budget and legislative branches of the former Health Education and Welfare Department, he developed a distinguished career in government that included serving many years as staff director of the U.S. Senate Finance Committee under Sen. Russell Long of Louisiana. He later worked as a legislative analyst for the Investment Company Institute. For over 50 years, Michael was a prominent member of his synagogue, Adas Israel Congregation, where he and Joyce were among the founding families of the lay-led prayer service called the Adas Israel Havurah."

May his memory be a blessing.

1960

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As our Fall 2020 column reached the word limit, it ended on an all-too-brief note that **Tom Raup** LAW'66 died on August 30, 2016.

Tom earned distinction as the youngest member of the bar (35) to be appointed to a judgeship in

Pennsylvania. He served on the bench by appointment for a 10-year term, then sought and won election to another 10-year term, and thereafter served as a senior judge while also teaching legal studies at Lycoming College. Upon his retirement from the bench Tom returned to private practice, focusing on mediation and arbitration.

Tom's legal experience started before he entered the Law School. Upon graduation he was commissioned as an ensign in the Navy and assigned to attend the Naval Justice School, then proceed to the aircraft carrier *U.S.S. Saratoga* where, in the course of his tour of duty, he became the chief legal officer.

Neil Markee knew Tom well and offers his recollections: "Tom was a classmate, roommate, fraternity brother, fellow lightweight varsity oarsman, fellow naval officer and friend during my time at Columbia and thereafter. A quite extraordinary individual. I think I knew him as well as most. I never had a class with Tom other than naval science. On the lightweight crew, seeing how he was respected and performed, I knew from the start he would one day be captain if he could afford to stay with the program. Self-supporting, I was broke and left crew after one year to work at Teachers College. He found a better way to manage his finances that allowed him to continue to row. Junior year, Tom, his brother **Bill Raup** and I lived in a run-down residence hotel on Broadway a few blocks south of 116th Street. My younger brother came to visit and remarked, 'I didn't know you lived in a slum,' but it was cheap."

Neil had an opportunity to meet with Tom when both were naval officers. "I was the communications officer aboard a lowly landing ship, tank (aka LST) moored to a sea wall in Naples when the impressive *U.S.S. Saratoga* entered port and anchored," Neil continues. "Tom had orders to that ship when he left Columbia. I wasn't sure he was still aboard, and I knew there had been a serious fire on the *Saratoga*. Finding a legitimate communications reason to visit the carrier, I took our ship's landing craft out to the huge ship, tended to the official reason for my visit and inquired about junior officer Raup. When I found him, I learned he had been near the fire but had not been singed



or otherwise injured. On June 22, 1963, at the end of his Navy tour, Tom married Barbara Jean Libby of Malibu, Calif., whom he met while his ship was visiting Athens, Greece. I was glad to receive an invitation to join his wedding party when I got back to the States. His brother Bill, **Claudio Marzollo** and I made up the male half of his wedding party. Unfortunately, after three years of sea duty, finding a job, becoming established and getting married, I lost contact with Tom and too many other classmates. Years later, during a business trip to Penn State, I learned that Tom had become a judge. Even if his address had been available, 'dropping in' that day wasn't an option, a missed opportunity I now regret."

Lee Rosner writes of his challenge in dealing with the pandemic, and extends his best wishes to all classmates. "On March 5, my co-op board asked me to head a task force on the coronavirus as it affects our 430-apartment complex. I was able to put together a good team of scientists and non-scientists and together we began to figure out how to deal with the problem. The challenge for us is that we have many common areas, including spacious lobbies, a gym, a library and a market, plus an aging population and a staff of 50. The residents are a very sociable group of people and interact in many different ways, making the demands for social distancing and wearing masks very difficult on them. Fortunately, we have been successful in keeping our residents safe, but it is a daily struggle. This is the most important job of my life."

"My immediate family and closest friends are doing well. Unfortunately, some more distant acquaintances have been sick and one friend in London almost died. So, I ask all classmates to please be totally cautious."

The passing of **Terrence McNally** drew this reflection from **Larry Lefkowitz**: "I remember Terry from Professor George Nobbe's English poetry class. I remember thinking, several times back then, that Terry McNally was understanding things that I hadn't processed."

Larry recounts his career as an orthopedic surgeon: medical school, a surgical internship, two years of service as an Army surgeon and an orthopedic surgery residency at

Columbia University Medical Center-NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, then a four-year practice in North Miami Beach, Fla. He and his wife, Sandy, whom he has known since high school, moved to Westport, Conn., where they raised their two daughters and son, and where they have lived for 44 years. Larry notes, "I have been an orthopedic surgeon in solo practice in Norwalk, Conn. For several years I was chief of orthopedic surgery at Norwalk Hospital. I stopped operating six or seven years ago but I have continued to see patients in my office. I have enjoyed doing that and think that what I do is worthwhile. I am on staff at Norwalk Hospital. In March, with the need to shelter at home, I began teleconferences with my patients."

Regarding other activities that he and Sandy have enjoyed, Larry mentions, "working in children's summer camps where I ran water-front programs. Later we would volunteer and spend vacation weeks there, where I was camp doctor. In past years we were involved in Jewish community activities locally and also with partners in Israel. Sandy has taught in a Brooklyn junior high school and at Norwalk Community College. She continues to be involved with a Bridgeport, Conn., charter school. Through the years we have chartered sailboats, sometimes just the two of us, sometimes with friends, often with family, vacationing in many beautiful places. We look forward to doing that again. I have a small outboard motor boat and a canoe. Sandy kayaks."

Victor Chang BUS'62 and his wife, Lily, residents of California, spend several months in New York to visit family. Victor regularly attended class luncheons. This past year, their departure for home was aborted when the pandemic and "shelter-in-place" order arrived. Victor shares, "Lily and I are in lockdown in our apartment overlooking the Hudson River. We are doing well despite learning of the passing of our classmates and several close friends. The tragedy of Covid-19 is heartbreaking, yet the blessing of family and friends keeps us going. I take a little time each day to write a narrative of how this pandemic impacts our economy and our history in the future. Columbia gave us an appreciation for the study of the 'humanities and public policies,' and my foundation in economics

at the Business School, along with post-graduate studies in long-wave cycles, have possibly given me some insights that I can pass on to my children and grandchild."

"After the nation survived the Great Recession, I was relieved, but concerned that the economic reforms were insufficient in addressing inequality and racism in the nation. I never imagined that we would be led by an unorthodox administration. Covid confirmed my fears that unforeseen hardships would change our world and challenge our ability to correct the mistakes of past generations. Globalization increased world growth and raised hundreds of millions of people around the world out of poverty, but it also enriched an 'elite class,' leaving the majority of people behind. The path ahead will be jagged as the world attempts to adjust to the shock of losing \$35-plus trillion of GDP growth worldwide; the GDP growth gap. The Fed is providing liquidity and unprecedented amounts of money and credit. On the fiscal side, Congress has provided more than \$3 trillion in funds to keep the economy afloat. More must be done. In the process, federal fiscal deficits will double or triple in the next decade, surpassing the deficits accumulated during WWII. Concerned about the economic outlook, I am even more concerned that the lack of positive leadership around the world and the deterioration of valued institutions — cultural, judicial, press, government, partisan think tanks and so on — will hamper our attempts to reform the future. In long-wave economic theory, it may take a generation to correct the wrongs of the past."

1961

REUNION 2021

MAY 24-JUNE 3 (virtual)

JUNE 4-5 (in-person, conditions permitting)

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Sam Cherniak LAW'80 continues to draft judicial decisions as a member of the Law Department,

New York Supreme Court, Civil Branch, while continuing to read books that interest him. His wife, Phyllis Gelman, continues working at her women's rights and civil rights practice. Their son, Nathaniel, recently completed his fourth year as the supervisor of an Appalachian Mountain Club facility in western Massachusetts. Their daughter, Anna Gelman, is the administrative assistant to the head of information technology at a hedge fund in New York. Last spring, they participated in a Zoom Seder with **Joe Rosenstein** and his family. Sam wishes our classmates well in these trying times.

Gene Milone has been attending every virtual conference in sight. He says it's great to participate in meetings without having to face the hazards of travel. He is also using robotic telescopes and far contacts to get data, and using his own cameras and telescopes to observe such phenomena as comets and meteor showers.

Last August, Gene's paper on an eclipsing binary star in a galactic star cluster was published in *The Astrophysical Journal*. This is noteworthy in that the modeling of this system took six years to complete, a project he says he could not possibly have undertaken if he had to face annual reports to the university and to granting agencies. Being emeritus has its liberating aspects.

Gene has been able to remain socially distanced and is staying healthy, and hopes all classmates are doing the same.

Bob Salman LAW'64 campaigned hard for the Biden/Harris ticket and for the reelection of Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) and Congressman Frank Pallone Jr. (D-N.J.). On October 21, Bob presented his election predictions to the approximately 30 classmates who attended our class's monthly Zoom meeting.

Barry McCallion continues to work in the studio making "artist's books." His dealer, Priscilla Juvelis, displayed his works in a new fall/winter catalog. Last February, Barry was interviewed by Francesca Rheannon for "Writer's Voice" and, recently, Joan Baum (*Baum on Books*) reviewed his treatment of "Beowulf" for NPR. Barry's wife, Joanne, has been doing virtual activities such as choral singing.

Barry and Joanne recently had their 1932 fireplace repaired, after stalling for years. The mason who came to repair it was a local. He



Dr. Jennifer Ashton '91 (left) and her son, Alex Ashton '20, at Alex's "faux graduation" on May 14 with her parents, Dorothy Garfein TC'66 and Dr. Oscar Garfein '61.

walked into the living room, took one look at the fireplace and said, "I was here as a kid. I remember the heart-shaped stone over the mantel. My father, Sebastian Arnold, built this fireplace."

The son is a second-generation mason, and 11th- or 12th-generation East Hamptoner. The memory and the tie-in causes each fire to burn a little brighter.

Barry and Joanne hope to resume traveling once the pandemic is resolved. First on their list is to see Istanbul again.

Oscar Garfein PS'65, BUS'97 writes this has been a trying year but a triumphant one as well. His family is in good health, although his son Evan (a misguided soul who attended Princeton) developed Covid-19 in April. A wonderful story about Evan can be found on goprincetontigers.com. Thankfully Evan recovered completely and went back to work as chief of plastic and reconstructive surgery at the Bronx's Montefiore Medical Center.

Oscar's daughter Jennifer Ashton '91, PS'00, HN'16 had an incredibly busy six months as ABC's chief medical correspondent, on air with *Good Morning America* and now GMA3, most days, as well as extra duty during an incredibly busy last two weeks in late September/early October. Jennifer is also a practicing ob-gyn.

Alex '20, Oscar's grandson, majored in math/computer science and is now gainfully employed as a software development engineer at

Amazon. Oscar's granddaughter, Chloe, who was supposed to start her sophomore year at Harvard, where she plays ice hockey, has taken the year off and is working for a nonprofit and a law firm.

In Oscar's immediate family, there are eight Columbia degrees. Oscar continues his small private practice in cardiology, still enjoying the privilege of caring for people and being tremendously upset at what the corporatization of medical care has done to the tradition of patient care. Dr. Francis W. Peabody in the early part of the 20th century famously said that "the secret of the care of the patient is caring for the patient." That imperative has gone the way of the Dodo and replaced by attention to a corporate bottom line. But, aside from some transient orthopedic problems, Oscar is doing pretty well.

Oscar saw **Tony Adler** in West Palm Beach, Fla., last spring, talks with **Arnie Intrater** occasionally and, before the shutdown, enjoyed our monthly class get-togethers with classmates in NYC, organized by Tony. Oscar says he is tremendously grateful for the education we received at Columbia, and mourns the changes wrought by the ill-founded demands of "progressive," so-called "liberal" thought on what he views as the major gift we got from alma mater in our day: the power to think. Locke's essay on Liberty has never been as important to remember as nowadays. One has to know both sides of the question to really understand the

problem. That imperative sadly is missing from our public discourse.

Monthly class luncheons have been replaced temporarily by Zoom meetings because of the Covid-19 situation. **Tony Adler** has been setting up the meetings. You can expect an email from Tony about time and subject and, if you are interested, respond to Tony to receive a link to the meeting.

Sadly, John Istvan '62 passed away on September 28, 2020, after a brave and courageous struggle with esophageal cancer. John fought valiantly and passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family. He valued his friendship with his classmates over the years and will be missed greatly. John is survived by his wife, Fran, and other members of his family. Church services were pending at the time I was notified. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

[Editor's note: As of late October, the Alumni Office is planning Columbia Reunion 2021 as virtual events Monday, May 24–Thursday, June 3, and in-person events Friday, June 4–Saturday, June 5, conditions permitting. Watch your inbox for more.]

1962

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Thirty-seven years ago, **Dave Nachamie** was recruited as the first urologist in Lincolnton, N.C. He retired in 2017. His late wife was a political activist whose calls for religious and racial tolerance angered many in their community. They had twins: Deidre, a lawyer in Lincolnton, and Eric, an administrator for Charlotte, N.C. Dave is delighted "how often my cross country and track teammates appear in Class Notes and what good and kind contributions they have made. I still race up to 10K and train with my twins. In 1995 Deidre and I ran the New York City Marathon. This spring I was surprised to read an article in our local newspaper by **Larry Wittner GSAS'67** about his efforts to clean up abuse by the NYC police."

Bob Lefkowitz PS'66 reports, "After graduating from P&S and doing postgraduate training at Columbia University Medical Center–NewYork–Presbyterian Hospital, the NIH and Mass General, I moved

to Duke University in 1973. I've spent my entire career there and am now the James B. Duke Professor of Medicine and Biochemistry and an investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. My work focuses on receptors for drugs and hormones. My lab's research has garnered several awards, including the 2012 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, and I received a 2014 John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement.

"Alas, I have kept up only with classmates who attended P&S with me and also graduated in 1966: **Bart Nilsson**, **Dave Tucker**, **Larry William** and **Bernie Patten**. Recently I co-authored a light-hearted memoir, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Stockholm*. Classmates might enjoy this book; it includes three chapters on Columbia.

"Upon graduation I became engaged to my high school girlfriend, Arna Zuboff. We married a year later and had three sons and two daughters. I've seen all grow up, get married and lead fascinating lives, and had the pleasure of knowing my six grandchildren. Arna and I divorced, and in 1991 I married Lynn Tilley, a Southern Belle — born and raised in Durham, N.C. — whereas I'm from the Bronx."

Alan Barnes writes: "As we approach a momentous election, I feel hopeful, but anxious. I practice psychiatry half time and briefly retired, but didn't care for it — just got lazy. My daughter, Alejandra, is a physician, certified in internal medicine and pediatrics."

Mike Charney practices medicine full time (infectious disease) and lives in San Jose, Calif. For most of 2020, he treated Covid-19 patients at a hospital that serves a largely Hispanic neighborhood. Their incidence of infection is much higher than the state's average, and their clinical presentations more serious.

Larry William purchased a new camera and has begun some nude photography. "But," he complains, "my wife has cramped my style, insisting I wear at least a jock strap so I don't scare the models."

Some resolutions from **Anthony Valerio**: "Support my wife's university teaching, i.e., put myself aside. Accept my need for five edits 'stead of three. Think three times before speaking. Embrace my mates."

John Golembe's wife, Evelyn, passed away in July 2019 after a



three-year battle with cancer. They were married 54 years ago at St. Paul's Chapel. Since their family and friends are so scattered and spring was Evelyn's favorite season, John scheduled the celebration of her life for last April. When Covid-19 threatened Pittsburgh, they canceled. "There is so much uncertainty in the world," John writes. "We don't know when to hold the service, but we surely will."

Steve Stein recounts a remarkable story: "I don't know how many classmates have had Covid-19, but here's a survivors' tale. My wife, Linda, and I live in Westport, Conn., and have recovered from the coronavirus. We got it in March, when we knew only that it was in China, under control and would disappear with the warm weather.

"We started with nasty colds — sneezing, congested heads, runny noses. Then Linda lost taste and smell, and suffered burning discomfort in her chest and abdomen. I felt tired and lousy — chilled to the bone, shivering, but no fever. Neither of us had a cough or shortness of breath. When Linda began running fevers of 100.5, she qualified for viral testing. I didn't, because I had neither fever nor chest symptoms!

"We had heard 'Anyone who wants a test can get one.' But it wasn't true! Even today, access to testing depends on where you live, whether you play professional ball or reside in a White House, or how bad the outbreak is in your area. After Linda tested positive, I ran temperatures of 103–104.5 for 48 hours despite taking Tylenol.

"In retrospect, we consider ourselves lucky. We had no respiratory distress and didn't need oxygen, ventilators or hospitalization. But recovering was no picnic. Whenever we thought we were healing, fever, fatigue and muscle aches returned. After four weeks we started to feel like normal 80-year-olds. So what have we learned? This not the flu! It's a nasty, miserable contagion. Do everything possible not to get it! And old people can survive it!"

Richard Toder's story is different: "Luckily my wife, Joan, and I were able to spend the summer in the Berkshires, and then a month in New York. Now we're happily ensconced in Naples, Fla., where the virus is weaker than on Florida's east coast. Between golf, bridge, reading, vicious games of

Super Big Boggle and competitions completing the *Times's* Mini Crossword, we are pleasantly occupied. But we do worry — and get angry — about the state of the political affairs in our country. We hope the election will improve things."

In Red Hook, N.Y., **Frank Stoppenbach** enjoyed the beauty of autumn and bumper crops of persimmons and paw paws, although the deer got most of the persimmons. But he is not enjoying — and has many questions about — the lockdown, not merely because he can't visit his grandchildren in Australia: "Was the severity of the pandemic greatly exaggerated through a math error, as suggested in a Cambridge scientific journal? Could the consequences of lockdown be worse than the pandemic? Is the Swedish approach better — no lockdown, allowing broad immunity to develop — as the decline in cases and deaths there suggests? Why lock down for this coronavirus, when it seems less deadly than past ones?" Frank believes there wasn't sufficient inquiry into consequences and options, as we'd learned to do at Columbia. But he's grateful for the medical care that made his wife, Kathy, healthy after different challenges.

Dan Stone reports that Manitoba is doing reasonably well with Covid-19, although the July days of nearly no infections have passed. "We're back to restrictions, community spread and widespread concern. The first snowfall put an end to lunches in the park, and my Mark Morris Dance Group has returned to Zoom. My research would go better if the archives were open. But I'm watching wonderful international discussions on Holocaust historiography."

Pete Stevenson writes: "Never mind the inflammatory charges, the whining and the discord — our nation's turmoil boils down to 'It's the economy, stupid!' In a few days we'll choose either a financially responsible entrepreneur with a rough persona who will build a strong economy or a corrupt 'nice guy' whose tax and economic policies will prolong the corona financial disaster for decades. So, how do I feel? Worried. Happily, I'm nearly 81 so I won't be here to endure a bad decision. But my four children and nine grandchildren will.

"Nevertheless, I am doing well. Despite having broken a number

of my parts by being headstrong, careless and perhaps foolish, I am active and work full time as a marine surveyor. Sometimes I enjoy as many as three boat rides in a week. I'm also an officer in the local Knights of Columbus and local United States Power Squadrons."

Andy Jampoler spent most of 2020 obsessing about the state of the Union and the Covid-19-shadowed presidential campaign. "During breaks from that enervating pastime, I've been working on a memoir/history of the past eight decades, *The Road to Here*. The story begins, as I did, in German-occupied eastern Poland in January 1942 and will proceed by decades until the present. I'm 65,000 words in, with more to come. When, if ever, done, it'll be my ninth book."

John Kater failed retirement and returned to Hong Kong in February to teach at HKSKH Ming Hua Theological College, where he's spent a semester a year for more than a decade. "By the time I arrived, the virus had overwhelmed months of violent demonstrations. I expected to return to the United States in June, but by then the virus was raging across the U.S. so I stayed for another semester. Although sometimes classes had to be online or hibernation was required, the situation has improved enough to allow in-person meetings and eating out. I am not sorry to be 7,000 miles away from the chaos of the virus and presidential campaign. My Hong Kong friends view America with sadness and disbelief. Many will never visit during the current climate of hate. I expected to return to the U.S. in December, and don't know when I'll be able to come back. It will be harder to leave than usual."

Due to CCT's word limit, I am unable to include notes from **Larry Gaston, Dan Fife, John Garman, Russ Abbott and Bob Meyer** in this issue. Their notes will appear in the Spring/Summer 2020 issue.

1963

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Every Thursday at 12:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, about 20 of your classmates gather for another Class

of '63 Virtual Lunch on Zoom. More than 35 different classmates have joined in during the last few months. I mentioned this in the Fall 2020 issue's Class Notes, and the tradition continues. Who ever imagined that more than 57 years after graduation, we would have a chance to spend an hour and a half with classmates each week? We hope you will join us — the conversations are terrific. Simply email me, and I will invite you to the next one.

Bernie Kabak sent me the following last April, and I neglected to add it in our Summer 2020 or Fall 2020 Class Notes. Sorry, Bernie!

"Henry Graff GSAS'49, a former chair of Columbia's history department and a recipient of the Society of Columbia Graduates's Great Teacher Award, died on April 7. His obituary in *The New York Times* mentions that he 'rhapsodized about teaching at Columbia.' I can attest to his ardor for alma mater's endowments. Professor Graff was my faculty advisor. When I sounded him out about my interest in spending my junior year at Hebrew University, he told me to go if I chose, but not to study history there for credit. As estimable as the university in Jerusalem was, he just saw Columbia's history department as being superior.

"Given that advice, I stayed put at Columbia. (I later spent two years in Israel, initially as a kibbutz volunteer during the Yom Kippur War.) But that was hardly Professor Graff's only influence on me. When he saw the boys in his class taking notes with ballpoints, he exhorted us to use what he called a 'grownup' pen: a fountain pen. Having received such a pen (a Sheaffer Snorkel) as a high school graduation gift, I was equipped for a college career of writing — in means of execution if not in literary style — like a grownup.

"Among the lions of the history department whom Professor Graff so esteemed was Walter Metzger GSAS'46. Professor Metzger's knowledge was vast, yet his standard demanded that each student's paper demonstrate that the writer knew more about the topic than he did. Yikes! I bring his name up here because Professor Metzger's lectures were so dense with information and sweeping in concepts that taking notes with a fountain pen proved to be a challenge; my pen would

sometimes run out of ink before I could get it all down.

"My writing like a grownup did not end with my Columbia years; it became a lifetime praxis. During my career, I worked in offices close to the World Trade Center. Happily, nearby was a shop — an uncommon enterprise not many cities could sustain but which you'd sort of expect to find in New York — the Fountain Pen Hospital. The shop not only did repairs but also sold fountain pens, displayed in vitrines like jewels. As I write, the Fountain Pen Hospital is closed, a victim of the coronavirus. Will it reopen? Well, it lived through 9-11, rode out the onslaught of word processing and emails, and survived the menace of social media. There is reason to hope."

[Editor's note: See Graff's obituary online in the Summer 2020 issue "Around the Quads": bit.ly/3lb1Njz.]

If any of you realize that I failed to publish your note, please let me know!

Robert Shlaer writes, "You said in the Fall 2020 issue that you wanted to hear what people have been up to during the Covid-19 incarceration, so here is my contribution:

"I have for the last few years been piping a welcome for the Santa Fe Traditional Music Festival, which is always the last weekend in August at Camp Stoney, along the Santa Fe Trail in the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and just a 20-minute drive from my house. Last year the gathering was impossible, so the festival board decided to create a virtual one, and all the participants submitted their own videos for incorporation. My playing is in

two parts, first at the beginning, and then near the end. If this is to your taste, the whole thing is available for free online: bit.ly/2KCzIF8."

Nick Zill asks, "How do politicians get away with telling lies about their accomplishments or blatantly exaggerating the effectiveness of government programs? Answer: They do so because many members of the public, young and old, are not very knowledgeable about national issues. Please read my latest blog post for the Institute for Family Studies, 'Political Awareness Begins At Home': bit.ly/2UV7Rlk. As well as documenting the general lack of awareness, it shows how political knowledge relates to the frequency of parent-child conversations about national issues; the frequency of reading newspapers, but not to watching news on television; and the type of schools to which students go and the courses they take."

Paul Lehrer sent in a great, long Class Note through the CCT website (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). Rather than edit it, I will include part now and the rest in the Spring/Summer issue.

"It is hard to imagine, but my wife, Phyllis, and I have been living in New Jersey for 50 years as of last September. After earning a bachelor's in sociology and psychology and then a doctoral degree in clinical psychology, from Harvard, and after working for a few years in Boston, I came to Rutgers University as a fledgling assistant professor in the psychology department in 1970. After two years I moved to the psychiatry department of what was then called Rutgers Medical School, now Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, where I became professor and taught for the next 48 of my 50 years at Rutgers. Phyllis and I have lived in the same small bedroom community halfway between Princeton and New Brunswick all this time, so I could easily commute to Rutgers and Phyllis to Princeton, where she was a professor of piano at Westminster Choir College, now Westminster College of the Arts at Rider University. Both of us retired from our academic positions last June.

"Along the way we had two beautiful children, Jeffrey SIPA'94, who now serves as a foreign service officer for USAID, and Suzanne, who has followed in her mother's

footsteps, earning a master's in piano performance and becoming a prominent piano teacher in the Princeton area, and now also studying community organization at the Rutgers School of Social Work. Jeff married a lovely Russian woman who started out studying physics in Moscow, then earned an M.B.A. here, and since then has been holding responsible State Department positions as they travel around the world. Mostly because of Jeff, we have traveled to the far corners of the world, to places far off the tourist circuit: Georgia, Tajikistan, El Salvador, Guatemala and the Philippines.

"All of them are places well worth knowing, despite the bad press some of them have had in recent years, with interesting histories and friendly, interesting people. In my retirement I am hoping to read more on the histories of these places. Suzanne married a fabulous guy who now is associate registrar at Princeton University, after also working for a while at Columbia and earning a master's there. We have five beautiful grandchildren between the ages of 10 and 17.

"My academic career was influenced in a major way by the Psychology 101 course I took at Columbia with the great Professor Fred Keller. Those who took the course will remember that it was entirely about operant conditioning, where each of us were encouraged to teach our rats to do something special. I never particularly liked rats, but I got interested in applying this knowledge to helping people with emotional problems, so I became one of the early practitioners and researchers in the discipline now called cognitive behavior therapy."

Late last summer I learned of the deaths of **Paul Reale** and **Jeff Thompson**. Paul was recently mentioned in our Class Notes. He had been going through a productive musical period in the past year, even as his health declined. Jeff was a fraternity brother and good friend, and had been a semi-regular at our lunch meetings. I had no idea that he was in declining health and I am shocked and saddened by his death. Rest in peace.

[Editor's note: See Fall 2020 "Obituaries."]

David Alpern forwarded more sad news: "Just got the Fall 2020 CCT and see **Richard Tuerk's**

reference to **Steve Shirk**, also my high school classmate, whose recent passing I am sad to report.

"For decades a teacher at the American School of Paris, subsequently retired and living in a small town nearby — when he wasn't on one of his regular global jaunts — Steve was an endless source of good jokes, political cartoons and song parodies, but informed his many email contacts last August that he was hospitalized with a 'dominant right hand not working ... probably of neurological origin.'

"Turned out to be a brain tumor, which he said was responding to radiation and chemo, and he was quite optimistic. But, still under treatment, he died suddenly in his sleep, according to a nephew, Ben Wildavsky, to whom one can send condolences and get more information (ben.wildavsky@gmail.com), and who will be arranging a Zoom memorial."

Rest in peace, Steve.

[Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

Once the pandemic is over and you're back in NYC, you can reconnect with classmates at our regular second Thursday class lunches at the Columbia Club (we will still gather at the Princeton Club). I'm a pessimist but hoping we might be able to meet again by February 11, and then on March 11 and April 8. In any case, we will continue to meet virtually on Zoom every Thursday at 12:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. Just email me for an invitation.

In the meantime, please let us know what you are up to, how you're doing and what's next. Stay safe!

1964

Norman Olch
norman@nolch.com

I am writing this note on the last weekend before Election Day. New coronavirus infections across the country are almost 100,000 per day, and epidemiologists are forecasting that the worst is still ahead of us. In my last two columns I expressed the hope that when they are published society's lot will have improved. While that has not come to be, I hope that when this column is published the situation will be better.

Ivan Weissman, in New York City, writes what I imagine many of us have been thinking: "What my



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kids are experiencing now reminds me every day of how great our Columbia experience was and how lucky we were. Can you imagine how sad it would have been to be deprived of those in-person scintillating lectures by inspiring instructors like Walter Metzger GSAS'46; James Shenton '49, GSAS'54; Joseph Rothschild; Zbigniew Brzezinski; Henry Graff GSAS'49; and so many others? We all know the thrill of learning would not have been anywhere near the same through a computer screen.

"That's what my wife Jane's and my kids are experiencing now. Julia is in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., for her junior year at Skidmore College, but her classes are all online. And Jesse's final year of classes at NYU Law School are also remote. Sad to see young people deprived of such a wonderful aspect of school."

Bernard Catalinotto checks in from California: "Greetings to the Class of '64 from the left coast. Since the highs and lows of my four years at Columbia with you, I've had an adventurous life, two or three careers, a wonderful family, two children — one of whom is a Columbia grad and the other of whom is in med school — and most excitingly, a new grandchild, Hannah, who lives with her parents in San Rafael, Calif., a few miles north of our house in Mill Valley. Of course, with Covid-19 raging around us, I only get to babysit while social distancing — with mask, gloves and shield while she sleeps in the stroller, but we feel very lucky to live close by.

"The adventure continues: In 2019, my wife, Roberta, and I visited the birthplaces of my grandparents and great-grandparents in western Sicily, and old friends in Rome. Since last year it's all Zoom, all the time. Every Monday I lead a French chat session for an hour; Thursday it's Italian. Let me know if you'd like to join.

"Every Wednesday I meet with my three colleagues on the leadership team of our local grassroots organization, Mill Valley Community Action Network, which we've grown from scratch to 1,500 members all working — and donating — to keep our democracy a democracy.

"In my spare time I'm trying to monetize my patent. It's related to mapping, and you can get a taste of it by downloading the Mill Valley Community Map Book Bundle

from Avenza Maps on your iPhone. It's free to Columbia grads (and everyone else, too).

"I'm looking forward to our next reunion, in 2024; meanwhile I'm hoping **Norman Olch** will move the monthly luncheon from restaurant to Zoom so I can catch up with some of you in real time."

Steve Case writes from the nation's capital: "Late last February, just ahead of the pandemic, my wife, Margaret, and I cruised for two weeks in Australia and New Zealand. Various on-board speakers were, surprisingly to me, very low on Winston Churchill, accusing him of having drawn military away from homes there to fight Gen. Erwin Rommel in North Africa. Churchill, they said, had promised the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps all the protection they would ever need from Hong Kong and Singapore, which of course evaporated quickly in December 1941. They said their only salvation was the U.S. military forces sent there early in 1942, i.e., the units that almost immediately went into action on Guadalcanal and so on.

"Owing to Covid-19, I, like everyone else, have been laying low here in the Washington, D.C., area. I enjoy working with my co-director, **Gene Meyer**, on the board of the *Washington Independent Review of Books*. Check out this outfit on the internet for great stuff on books! Also, the book group in D.C. with, among others, **Dave Levine**, **Jack Ventura**, **Barry Shapiro**, **Marty Blank** '65, **Neil Silver** '65 and **Elliot Singer** is always good. Our leader (via Zoom) is Professor Pat Grieve from the Columbia humanities faculty. Last summer she led us through all 900 pages of Cervantes's *Don Quixote* (great read!). In the fall we finished fascinating selections from Herodotus. We move next to revisit that old war horse, *Hamlet*."

Peter Thall reports from Connecticut on his children and his efforts to help the families of those who wrote the pop music of the '50s: "My youngest child, Sophie, recently married, virtual-style. She is in charge of product development at Laura Mercier, a cosmetics division of Shiseido, having spent some years at NARS, another division, and [makeup artist] Pat McGrath's start-up.

"My oldest, Emily, a lawyer, is head of marketing, PR and business

development at a 350-lawyer firm in New York City; her foray into pro bono immigration work with asylum-seekers from Central America has given her a new and different perspective on what lawyers can do for others, and my stepson Vincent, a Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer (while with *The New York Times*), recently began to work for Apple after consulting with Apple for years regarding its cameras and photo systems. Thankfully all love their work; sadly only Vincent (via his prize) has a connection with Columbia, except for an occasional football game where you might have seen my grandchildren cheering on the Lions — always to a win (don't tell them that they don't always win).

"I work full time for recording artists and songwriters and have developed a niche practice in which I assist creators or their heirs to recapture U.S. copyrights that the creators might have sold decades ago. A fairly obscure provision of the U.S. copyright law allows this to the surprise and financial rescue for these creators and, more often than not, their widow(er)s and surviving children. My article *Re-capturing the Family's Literary Jewels: Termination of Copyrights* was published in October in *Delaware Lawyer*. I lecture and write as much as I can to educate trusts and estates lawyers and others on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to convert a trickle of royalties into a huge annuity for them and their heirs. Among the copyrights that have been the subject of these terminations are the soundtrack of our age group's lifetimes: 'What Now My Love,' 'Let It Be Me,' 'Hang On Sloopy,' 'Come a Little Bit Closer,' a slew of 'Philadelphia Sound' songs including 'I'll Be Around (I'll Be There)' and 'Somebody Loves You (Baby),' and even the 1960s songs made famous by The Hollies (remember 'Carrie Anne?'), all co-written by Graham Nash. I, too, have recently expanded my understanding of what lawyers can do for others.

"The most difficult news of the past months, other than dealing with Covid-19, is that my brother-in-law Seymour Hendel '53 passed away in October. But for him, I would not have attended Columbia, been such a rooter for its value to the world or probably even become a lawyer."

[Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

Ira Jaffe SOA'67, professor emeritus at the University of New Mexico, where he founded the Department of Cinematic Arts & Media Arts, has written many books and scholarly articles on film. His essay about Romanian filmmaker Cristian Mungui appeared in a special cinema issue of *The Romanian Journal of European Studies* in December. Since 2007, Mungui has been awarded the Palme d'Or, Best Director and Best Screenplay at the Cannes Film Festival. The *Journal* is distributed in the United States by Columbia University Press.

Finally, I continue to do my legal work at home, with only a rare trip to the office. I had my first remote oral argument on Microsoft Teams before a panel of appellate judges. I enjoy being in the courtroom but I think I caught a glimpse of the future. I take breaks with walks in Central Park — masked and socially distant.

Stay in touch. Your classmates want to hear from you. This note will appear around mid-January. I wish all of you and your loved ones a Happy New Year and Good Health, Peace, Joy and Prosperity.

1965

Leonard B. Pack
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Joel Berger (joelberger1955@yahoo.com) recently published a law review article, "Reforming the NYPD and Its Enablers Who Thwart Reform." The citation will be: 55 *New England Law Review* 1. Read it online: bit.ly/3eQLW82.

According to Joel, "This is pretty much my swan song. After nearly 30 years of monitoring the NYPD, first as an executive at the NYC Corporation Counsel's office with access to secret documents not generally made available to the public, and then after learning additional NYPD secrets while litigating federal civil rights cases against the agency, I wanted to tell the public everything I know about the NYPD and the many city agencies that assist the NYPD in covering up the misdeeds of its officers. Much of the article describes events and policies that are not generally known even to experts in the field but need to be known at this critical time when so many activists are demanding

changes. At 76, I am semi-retired with a small caseload, and my goal is certainly not to achieve any renown in academia. I simply want the public to know what I know and use it to press for the most necessary and comprehensive reforms."

I noticed that Joel had a Letter to the Editor published in the September 14, 2020, issue of *The New Yorker* responding to an article on police unions. Read it online: bit.ly/3pgv7YW.

Michael Cook (michael.cook@srz.com), an omnivorous reader, notified me, "You should know that **Niles Eldredge** GSAS'69 got positive notice in the recent book *A Dominant Character: The Radical Science and Restless Politics of J. B. S. Haldane*, by Samanth Subramanian, the compelling biography of Haldane, a famous British geneticist. According to the book, Niles and Stephen Jay Gould had confirmed one of Haldane's early theories. I had the privilege of working with Niles as kitchen help at what was then known as Johnson Hall almost 60 years ago."

I add that Niles had a great set of reminiscences in CCT Online's "Take Five": bit.ly/38xWzeV.

Space limitations forced me to defer the concluding portion of **David Sard's** submission in the Fall 2020 issue. Here it is: "The Covid-19 crisis has spared me for the most part. My relatives are OK. I work from home using Zoom. My son and I leave the house to shop for groceries and to walk around our neighborhood in West Orange, N.J. The state of American politics is terrifying. I feel as though I am living

in a burning house. Democracy is in grave danger. We have a madman in the White House, an emperor with no clothes who has either bought off or terrorized the entire Republican party. Maybe the dilemmas of modern life are just too complicated for people to understand. How could anybody vote for a man who puts babies in cages and ships children away from their families to countries where they have no families? The Trump phenomenon has shown us how a Mussolini or a Hitler could win an election. American democracy — Lincoln's 'last best hope of Earth' — was painfully won at the cost of tremendous suffering and lives lost: Black, white, Native American, Asian et al. Now Trump and his lackeys are dismantling it, brick by brick.

"I hate to end on such a gloomy note. The good news is that I have become a playwright. *The Ballad of Eddie and Jo*, a modern reimagining of Sophocles's *Oedipus Rex*, had a three-week Actors' Equity Association Showcase in NYC in 2010. Turns out some old Greek beat me to it. He was very talented guy, I have to admit. *The Private Life of Jesus Christ* had a one-week run in Vancouver a few years ago. It is another reimagining: This time we see Jesus as an adolescent arguing with his parents — Mr. and Mrs. God — because he wants to go off on his own and try his hand at saving a planet in distress. His parents think he's too young. After a lot of talk about good and evil and other heavy stuff, they let him go. I also have a bunch of sketches, mostly comic. My favorite is about a ghost who comes for psychotherapy.

"I would love to hear from Columbia friends. I apologize for having neglected you: Niles, Lenny, TZ, Richard, Ken, Ralph, Chris, Greg, Neal and Steve. I did have some great teachers, whom I think about frequently. I was moved to see that Howard McP. Davis was honored [with a professorship; read about it online: bit.ly/32DkYfr]. 'Gladly would he learn, and gladly teach.'"

I asked Dave what effect our reading of *Oedipus Rex* in first-year Humanities had on him and his play. He answered, "I'm sure *Oedipus Rex* was resonating in many ways in my unconscious when I wrote *The Ballad of Eddie and Jo*. The funny thing is I was under the delusion that I was making some fundamental changes

in the story. I made him into a foster child who ran away from his foster parents and is looking for his real parents. I also had 'Eddie' and his mother having a real relationship, which is developed in the play. I avoided looking at Sophocles until I had finished. Then I was amazed to see how much my version resembled the original. So, it was there all the time. It really grew out of my experiences as a psychologist working with poor kids in Harlem and the South Bronx, Bed-Stuy and the Lower East Side."

Derek Wittner had another letter published in *The New York Times*, this one responding to an op-ed on reopening colleges safely during the pandemic. Read it online: nyti.ms/3eQXY16.

1966

REUNION 2021

MAY 24–JUNE 3 (virtual)

JUNE 4–5 (in-person, conditions permitting)

Events and Programs Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact
cdfund@columbia.edu

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Michael Garrett writes: "We have a large and growing Reunion Committee to plan virtual, in-person and mixed-format events for our 55th reunion, depending on conditions in the late spring. Staying healthy, sane, relevant, busy and safe in our mid-70s is a vastly different undertaking than it was in our 40s, and we aspire to convene a fair portion of the class to compare notes on our impressive abilities to do so in these politically disastrous, Covid-19-ridden, socially unstable times. We will also look back, through light blue-colored glasses, at our time at Columbia, and then forward through its extraordinary current transformation.

"To join the Reunion Committee, email me at michaelgarrett@earthlink.net."

Calvin H. Johnson writes, "I drafted a survey for the class, with many hands also lifting it up. It is based on a Yale reunion survey that provoked good conversations. You should have received it. Do fill it out, so we can all evaluate life

since 1966. **Neill Brownstein** has taken over the organization of the Reunion Committee, with help from the Alumni Office, and he is an organizational miracle.

"Like many, I am on house arrest until the vaccine comes in. But what a wonderfully stimulating time. I have three book discussion groups that are becoming pretty darn erudite. Talk and walks are the greatest institution in America, and I have put together eight of them per week. Lovely Zoom meetings with people I love. Plus, the University of Texas law school, where I continue to teach, has quite fine presentations. I exist to the world in general only digitally."

Phil Goldstein shares, "I wish to remember my friend **Paul Nyden**, who passed away a number of years ago. He became a college professor and then a newspaper reporter active in support of coal miners."

Neill Brownstein writes: "Paul J. Cronin is an honorary member of the Columbia Classes of 1965–1966–1967–1968–1969–1970 via his extraordinary 10-episode documentary, *A Time to Stir*, which captures the emotions, actions and events at Columbia 50-plus years ago. A must-view! Paul shared the link: atimetostir.com; the password for all chapters is 'atime to stir' (one word; no quote marks)."

Neal H. Hurwitz writes: "I am very pleased to be a member of the Class of '66 55th Reunion Committee with **Neill Brownstein**, **Tom Brunner** et al., and to pledge for the John Jay Associates.

"I am happy to see classmates making donations to the College.

"I have benefited greatly by my connections to Columbia, including Project Double Discovery; Friends of SNCC; the lightweight football squad (I'll always remember and hold in high regard the leadership there of QB **Tom Harrold**!); and all the fine professors. My experiences and learning on the Ad Hoc Faculty Negotiating Committee (as the youngest there) in '68 are reflected in the book *A Time to Stir: Columbia '68* (2018), edited by Paul J. Cronin.

"I worked with Alan F. Westin at his Center for American Liberties, and helped Dr. Bob Liebert (Mark Rudd '69's 'shrink') with *Radical and Militant Youth: A Psychoanalytical Inquiry* (1971). Same with Spec editor Jerry Avorn '69 et al., on *Up Against the Ivy Wall: A History of the Columbia Crisis*.

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"My greatest regret is the death in summer '62 of C. Wright Mills, with whom I was set to learn from and work. That sad event changed the course of my life, as I switched from my first love, history, to public law and government, but with the fine cast of Julian Franklin GSAS'60; Herbert Deane '42, GSAS'53; Alan Westin; and Mark Kesselman; and at GSAS, with **Ira Katznelson** and Roger Hilsman, who appointed me his TA.

"I miss those faculty friends now gone: Deane; Westin; Hilsman; Walter Metzger GSAS'46; Terry Hopkins; Manny Wallerstein '51, GSAS'59; and Marshall Shulman SIPA'48, GSAS'59.

"Recently I have had the pleasure of reconnecting with great Columbia QB and famed cardiologist Dr. Archie Roberts '65. His Living Heart Foundation also works with the NFL.

"We are living in very strange times. Please find me on Facebook at Neal Hugh Hurwitz, and on LinkedIn at Neal H. Hurwitz."

Joseph Albeck shares: "My memories of the Class of '66 remain vivid and warm. A few years have indeed passed since we last met, but the pictures in the 1966 *Columbia* I

sion is erasing the emails that tell me someone else has looked at an academic paper I published years ago about conflict resolution. My 1989 book of poems has stopped selling on Amazon, so I am working on a memoir that puts those poems and a bunch of newer ones in the context of my family's Holocaust background and my personal struggles as I lived my life. **Alex Auerbach**, who has been a reliable friend these many years, has kindly offered to edit my ungrammatical prose and translate it into comprehensible English.

"I have kept in intermittent touch with friends from my Citizenship Council days, including **Alex, Steve Weinberg, Dan Friedlander** and **Jim Rosenberg**. Reunions for the Double Discovery Center renewed my friendships with Roger Lehecka '67 and Helen Stambler Neuberger BC'66. **Mike Leibowitz, Mark Berger, Neal Hurwitz** and Frank Guerra still answer my emails, but I have essentially lost contact with childhood friends, including **Phil Cohen** and **Alex Nacht** GS'74. I miss contacts with those classmates I understand are no longer among the living.

look. To celebrate his life as I knew it I wrote an illustrated memoir, posted on my blog: wp.me/a8pbTM-vy.

"It was the third memoir of a dear departed friend I assigned myself to write in the past two years, and the last, I hope, for a good while. These I wrote because I grieved, but most of what I write is different. I'm approaching a sort of closure on my second novel, which is tightly interwoven with the plot and characters of my 2018 thriller, *Turkey Shoot: He Might Not Be the Terrorist You Expected*. Authoring keeps me from sinking into total despair watching my country and planet stumble into disorder and pestilence. It also keeps me sane in isolation, though I've not had to change much of my household lifestyle to avoid the pandemic. My spouse of 24 years, Ayg l, works half-remotely at MIT, and daughter Deniz the same at the University of Vermont in Burlington.

"Three days from now we'll have an election. The best I can hope for is for it to do no new harm and generate momentum for healing what's been fractured.

"Find what I've been up to at perfidy.press, and my general take on things at progressivepilgrim.review. Please say hey on a contact form or drop a line to geoff@perfidy.press, and stay very well and totally sane."

Cliff Rosenthal GSAS'69 writes: "I'm now in the late stages of my third or fourth career. I stayed on campus after graduation to complete an M.A. in Russian history and pass my orals. Instead of a dissertation, with a colleague I discovered, edited and translated Russian revolutionary memoirs from the Populist movement. I supported myself as a freelance Russian translator while I became a food co-op organizer for American Indian and later migrant farmworker organizations, until I found my enduring passion: credit unions. For 30-plus years I ran a national association for anti-poverty minority credit unions-financial cooperatives.

"At the ripe old age of 67, I set off for Washington, D.C., to establish the Office of Financial Empowerment in Elizabeth Warren's brainchild, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

"Back in Brooklyn, I've spent the last half-dozen years resisting retirement as a consultant and writer, producing *Democratizing Finance: Origins of the Community*

Development Financial Institutions Movement, the definitive history of a movement I helped create. These days, living with my editor/author wife, Elayne Archer, I'm contemplating a second edition of my book and longing for an end to the pandemic so I can help babysit our one and only granddaughter. Thankfully, I'm still in touch with lifelong friends **Phil Myers, Frank Mirer, Dan Gover, Gene Fierman** and **Ken Fox**, among others."

1967

Albert Zonana
az164@caa.columbia.edu

Joseph Solodow writes: "Seven years into retirement from Southern Connecticut State University, I'm still working, though part-time. I teach one advanced Latin course at Yale every semester. Focused chiefly on teaching, and still devoting some time to research and writing, I'm enjoying an unbeatable professional life. My partner, Laura Harris, and I shuttle, or rather, used to shuttle, between Connecticut and New York. For us, who are exceptionally fortunate, the epidemic has been little more than a mild inconvenience. I hope you can all say the same."

George Farkas is the Distinguished Professor of Sociology at UC Irvine. In 2020 he was awarded the Willard Waller Award from the American Sociological Association for career achievement. His research focuses on reducing educational inequality. He and his wife, Judy Kaufman, recently celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary. "As a kid from Queens, I feel lucky to be living in SoCal," George says.

Arnold Eggers PS'71 retired as a professor of neurology at SUNY Downstate Medical Center in 2018 so he could write a book on the neuroscience of stress, which came out last year. His daughter lives in England and is a teacher. His son is at home doing Columbia College online.

David Galinsky recently stepped down as the medical director of the Pennsylvania Department of Aging, "which was my first retirement gig after a career as a geriatrician." He says he has almost finished reading all the Lit Hum books that he never got around to during freshman year and still can't believe that he graduated.

Joseph Albeck '66 is working on a memoir that will include new poetry about his family's Holocaust experiences; Alex Auerbach '66 will be his editor.

review periodically are still the same. I have known a couple of you since elementary school in Manhattan, but have not been as good at keeping in touch as I should.

"My current update includes having retired from the practice of psychiatry in Boston two years ago; I spend much of my time playing doubles tennis and babysitting my four grandchildren and two step-great-grandchildren. Our three children and their progeny live nearby. My wife, Isabelle, who retired from teaching a few years before me, does the same. The tennis outdoor season is over, and respect for Covid-19 will keep us away from indoor venues. It also kept us from visiting our former home in France last summer.

"Other than taking courses for seniors at Brandeis, my only diver-

"If **Gary Kopf, George DiGiacinto, Paul Ehrlich, Alan Gilmore, Fred Hyman** and **Glenn Sandberg**, or any other classmates, care to renew contact, my email is jhalbeck@me.com. Best regards to all."

Geoffrey Dutton shared news of a passing: "Many fellow alums don't know we lost **Steve Lesser** to degenerative disease in mid-2019. Steve was a well-regarded architect in East Hampton, whom at Columbia, and then at Harvard, was a roommate. We were best men at each other's first weddings. Steve leaves his lovely wife, Celia Jacobsen, and their talented offspring: Allie, a musician; Emma, an artist; and Jon '17, SIPA'20, a math major. I'll always remember Steve for his broad welcoming smile, human-centered approach to design and humane out-

Don Morris lives with his wife, Carole Lee, in Cheyenne, Wyo. He retired from part-time radio work last spring and spent last summer and early fall biking, gardening and umpiring baseball while wearing a mask. Two of their three children have purchased homes a few blocks away.

Marty Andrucki is in his final year of teaching at Bates College, where after 46 years he is now the senior member of the faculty and the Charles A. Dana Professor of Theater. Until the pandemic, Marty was set to direct his 55th, and final, production at Bates, *Antigone*, in November. He is now teaching dramatic literature, including *Antigone*, remotely. For the past 20 years, Marty has taken students to Budapest to study the politics of Central European theater and film. Three of his plays have been produced in Maine. With his wife, Judy; son, Max '99; occasionally with **Mark Minton** and **Bill Simon**; and regularly with **Rey Buono**, Marty enjoys their island getaway in Penobscot Bay.

Sin Ming Shaw: "Hong Kong effectively ceased to be an autonomous polity effective July 1, 2020, when the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) imposed a National Security Law that covers a wide range of punishable crimes for any Hong Kong resident. The NSL is draconian. It covers ill-defined concepts as acts of secession, subversion, terrorism and collusion with foreign or external forces. A writer such as myself writing articles critical of the CCP could easily fall under one or more of these categories. Beijing has now stationed its own security personnel in Hong Kong to monitor any 'anti-China' acts or 'agents of foreign influence.' I have stopped writing for publication and am living in an Orwellian society. We are reminded the CCP is always watching for 'subversive' activities. Other than that, life in Hong Kong seems 'normal.'"

Gordon Klein retired from the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Texas Medical Branch in 2009 and spent time traveling and lecturing around the world. He continued his work on bone and muscle loss following burn injury and identified the mechanism by which bone loss induces muscle loss. In 2017 he was made an Overseas Fellow of the Royal Society of

Medicine (London) and the following year was chosen as an Inaugural Fellow of the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research.

"During Covid-19 lockdown, I have remained active collaborating with a lab at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm. I also do a lot of writing and reviewing. Personally, I use my time carting my grandchildren to school, karate lessons and electric guitar lessons," Gordon writes.

Manuel Reyes-Otálora retired in 2013 as managing partner of an architectural firm in Miami. He now enjoys being an artist and living in Carpinteria, Calif.

David Rubin retired in 2016 as dean emeritus and professor at the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University. He and his wife, Tina, built a house in Summerville, S.C., near Charleston. He spends time reading, playing the piano, walking his Shetland Sheepdog, Archie, and exercising, and is an active member of the Democratic Party.

Jeff Kluger: "My wife, Virginia, and I have been married for 40 years and have a beautiful grandson, who lives locally. Our family owns Hartford Baking Co., and when I am not delivering bread, I work as a physician educator and electrophysiologist in Hartford, Conn., where I direct the Cardiology Fellowship Program at UConn Hartford Hospital. I will be forever grateful for my education at Columbia on a Pulitzer Scholarship, which helped me achieve my current success."

Justin Malewezi has had a celebrated career in Malawi, including as a teacher of biology, a headmaster, the chief education officer for Malawi, head of several ministries as principal secretary in the Government Civil Service, VP of Malawi for 10 years and finally an Independent Member of Parliament for five years. He retired in 2009 and lives near Lilongwe, with his wife, Felicity.

Josh Leinsdorf writes, "I've been translating *Regarde-toi qui meurs, une femme dans la guerre* (Look at you who die, a woman in war), by Brigitte Friang."

Jonathan Kranz lives in Astoria, Queens, and works for a small real estate company specializing in buying, selling and managing fitness clubs. He also teaches political science part time at CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Tom Blinn earned a doctorate in college teaching of statistics from Teachers College and worked in computer systems at Digital Equipment, Compaq and Hewlett-Packard. After taking early retirement in 2005 he survived a double coronary artery bypass. He lives in Amherst, N.H., with his wife, Susan, and cat, Chloe.

Arthur Guffanti GSAS'75 works remotely for the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, screening applicants to determine if they should receive an interview. He tends to his vegetable garden and is still eating produce from it.

Richard Strassberg teaches math at FIT, now virtually from the Lower East Side.

David Schiff GSAS'74 retired in 2019 from teaching music at Reed College and reports, "Reed presented three concerts of my music in spring 2019, and recent commis-

successful and happy adults now, bringing me contentment and joy every day, and thrice on Sundays, I can't complain, and I don't."

Daniel Raybin is a practicing physician, specializing in pulmonary/critical care and occupational lung disease, and has lived in San Francisco since 1982. He works at a teaching community hospital and also teaches at UCSF and Stanford. His wife, Sue, is a retired pediatrician and now artist and amateur archaeologist. Daniel takes archaeological trips, and reads Japanese novels, Latin-American literature and recreational mathematics.

Marshall Clough retired from the history department of the University of Northern Colorado in 2010, after 35 years. He has been working on a memoir of his mother, a Foreign Service wife and volunteer with the YWCA, who passed away

Justin Malewezi '67 has had a celebrated career in Malawi, East Africa, including being an Independent Member of Parliament.

sions for a symphony and a violin concerto keep me fully occupied in my studio. My wife, Judy, and I look forward to seeing our children and grandchildren in a non-virtual mode once that is again possible."

Brant Fries retired in 2018 as emeritus professor of public health and geriatrics at the University of Michigan. He continues to develop better ways to assess vulnerable individuals, including those aging with mental or intellectual disabilities, and to use the information gathered to improve quality of care and set governmental policy.

Steve Zimmerman is a retired attorney. He and his wife teach about Alzheimer's as volunteers, play chess online, read for pleasure and watch Netflix.

Marty Goldstein reports, "Three good kids, four cool grandkids and some career success as a writer, winning the Writers Guild Award for my role in the 1986 television movie *Unnatural Causes*." Along with many years in the film business, Marty has been teaching at Santa Monica College for 21 years and plans to continue. "With my children all

in Shanghai in March 1950, at the end of the Chinese Civil War, just before the family was going to leave the new Communist China.

Joel Klaperman retired several years ago from Shearman & Sterling, after more than 30 years of practicing corporate law, and now lives with his wife, Renee, in Bucks County, Pa.

Paul Czarzasty practices family dentistry in Waterbury, Conn.

Bob Costa and his wife, Joan, enjoy retirement in Naples, Fla., and Rhinebeck, N.Y. They say they miss Columbia sports and events, and traveling, especially to visit daughter Carolyn '12 in Los Angeles.

John Gregor: "Like those in the rest of the country, maybe the world, we in Hawaii are pretty much treading water waiting for this pandemic to pass and hoping to be among the survivors. Then we shall see what sort of a world we are living in."

Jenik Radon: "I presented at William & Mary Law School: *Colmar, the Surprising Answer to U.S. Foreign Policy for a Democratic World*. I explained why 'united we stand, divided we fall,' embodying the age-



old wisdom of the New Testament, John Dickinson, Patrick Henry, Abraham Lincoln and Winston Churchill, needs to be the core of a rejuvenated U.S. foreign policy and why the journey starts in Colmar, birthplace of Frederic Bartholdi, the designer of the *Statue of Liberty*."

Due to *CCT*'s word limit, I'm not able to share detailed news from **Jeremy Siegel, Steve Salant, Anthony Moscato and Bennett Flax** this time. Look for their news in the Spring/Summer issue.

1968

Arthur Spector
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Greetings from Miami Beach. I did a stint in Upstate New York last summer; the weather was wonderful.

I am hoping when you read this the vaccines are out, and most importantly, that you are well and feeling relieved. I have found this a time to read a little more, play piano and use Google Hangouts. I enjoy talking to many, including **Art Kaufman, Seth Weinstein and Robert Brandt**, my college roommate, who continues to charm me with his intellect and great sense of humor. I spoke to **Joe DiBenedetto** not long ago; he was cheerful and on top of his game. He has been at his place on the Cape and is going back to Providence. I heard from **Hollis Petersen**, who was in Newport and on his way back to Key West, and **Neil Anderson**, on his way soon from New Jersey to his place in Naples, Fla. I also speak to **Bob Costa '67** at his home in Naples. **Paul de Bary** and I have been going to football games for years. I wonder if we will have a spring season. Paul keeps busy with his work.

So here is a bit of news from our renowned astronomer, astrophysicist and cruise ship expert **Bruce Margon** (when he can travel again I hope he comes to Miami for a cruise adventure): "By a stroke of luck, we managed 'expedition' cruises to both the Arctic and Antarctic Circles, finishing just before the pandemic began. Now we're doing fine, bored and stir-crazy like everyone else. I started out being surprisingly, scientifically productive working at home, but as time has dragged on, my ratio of research to Netflix steadily deteriorates.

"The combination of Covid-19 plus the horrendous wildfires this season have been a one-two punch that has been particularly difficult for Californians. Each of these disasters has managed to touch our household, albeit it peripherally. My Ph.D. thesis advisor sadly passed away due to Covid, and some of our dearest friends lost everything — their house and all their possessions — in just a few hours in a wildfire. This year is bound to be better!"

Yes, 2021 will be a better year. Amen indeed.

Barry Wick writes from Colorado Springs: "Although I'm a retired computer engineer (Boeing, Digital Equipment Corporation, Raytheon), I've been doing substitute teaching for the past three years. I'm now at a local middle school (actually, the same one that my kids attended in 1990 — full circle!). I'm teaching eighth grade PE, if you can imagine! For now, half the kids are in class and half are at home. Interesting times for all of us.

"I'm also a masters swimmer. I live 'life in the slow lane.' My times used to be twice the world record. I thought that was pretty good. Now, my times are three times the world record!"

"My four grandchildren all had virtual birthday parties last year — one in SF, three in Denver. I hope I'll be able to celebrate with them this year."

Stay well. Go Lions! Especially the Marching Band! By the way, **Neil Gozan** is a serious swimmer, too, as is **Art Kaufman**. Neil has been swimming for charity. Salute to him!

I heard from **Tom Sanford**.

Tom, every time I see the crews on the intercoastal, I think of classmates who rowed at Columbia; we have had some national rowing champs in modern times,

Tom writes, "For my wife, Candy, and me, 2020 started around March 15, when one of our sons and his boyfriend left Manhattan, terminated their lease on Amsterdam and 75th, and moved into the apartment above our new garage in Rhode Island. Two months later, son Tom '98, his wife, two children and au pair left their townhouse on Hamilton Place (near CCNY) and took over the Rhode Island house for the summer. Then on several occasions, including Candy's and my 50th wedding anniversary, our

daughter Evelyn '00 and her family, from Patterson, N.Y., joined the crowd. So, with little room left in Rhode Island, we spent all but a few nights in Stonington, Conn., 12 miles away. I am sure this same or similar scenario played out with many classmates.

"A few summer highlights included lots of rowing on the Mystic River in single shells, which guarantees social distancing; kayaking down the Pawcatuck River, 38 miles, some of which forms the border between Connecticut and Rhode Island; photographing my daughter's 10-year-old-son catching his first saltwater fish; and finally, when we thought it was reasonably safe, Candy and I spent several days at Mohonk Lake, near New Paltz, N.Y., in the Catskills.

"Occasionally I speak with **Art Kaufman and Gordon Harriss**. David Silver, our dedicated 50th reunion Columbia College Fund development officer, and I have certainly enjoyed reading some of the email chains that you and some of our other politically savvy classmates have circulated."

Bill Henrich writes from Texas: "I work full time (no retirement plans now) and lead an academic medical center at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. As you can imagine, the pandemic has totally changed the way we teach and deliver care, so every week and every month there are, inevitably, many changes. The good news is that the students have been flexible and are making good progress. The change to a higher number of video visits is something patients appreciate and will likely last beyond the pandemic's end. The first peak of the pandemic here was in July, but we are bracing for another wave. My wife, Mary, and I have been hunkered down as far as travel, restaurants and concerts like everyone else. The toughest adjustment for us is not being able to visit our grandchildren, so, also like many others, we FaceTime with them almost daily.

"We also read a lot, and I have a book to recommend: *The News of the World*, a story of a bond that forms between two unlikely people on a trip in 1870s Texas. It is now a movie that was to be released in December, starring Tom Hanks. Just a relaxing, good read. Another good

book is *The Splendid and the Vile*, a terrific account of Churchill's leadership during the Blitz. Really enjoyed the accounting of how he coped with bad news daily, something we have a fair amount of these days."

Thanks, Bill. Your talk at our 50th reunion was inspiring, and we are ready for the next one.

From **Al McCoy**: "Many thanks for sending along the article about the end of lightweight rowing at Dartmouth. To prevent that from happening at Columbia and spur donations from rowing alumni, the crew coaches sent out a strong appeal for high participation on Columbia Giving Day, which got a strong response.

"Speaking of donations, my children have both rowed for the local crew here in Madison, Wis. They put out a call for donations to purchase single shells to allow for social distancing during the pandemic, so I donated one. The club treasurer, who is a CC'91, had read my story in *CCT* about rowing around Manhattan to honor **John T. Norton Jr.** (see it online: college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/fall18/article/last-word) and suggested the club name it after him. So this spring, local high school rowers will have the privilege of competing on the lakes around Madison in a nice racing single, with the name 'John T. Norton' in Columbia blue on the bow.

"I still row several times a week. A few months ago, my son was rowing with the club in a dual meet against Quad Cities in Moline, Ill. At the 'family row,' at the end of the day, I hopped into a double with my 17-year-old son and we raced 3,000m down the Mississippi River, navigating around the sandbars and snags that Mark Twain wrote about, and coming in one second behind a pair of teenagers. Not bad for our first time rowing together."

It was fantastic to hear from **Fred Smith**: "I now live in Cascais, Portugal, a middle-sized city 15 miles west of Lisbon on the Atlantic Ocean. I moved here this past fall, after an almost yearlong effort to get my visa. The influx of Covid-19 extended the process, but because I had started about this time last year, I was one of the early ones to submit my paperwork, once Portugal opened up processing in early August. The last week before leaving, I finished packing up the household

goods I was shipping, had a 22-ft. U-Haul loaded with my stuff and drove from Virginia Beach to my shipper's warehouse in Newark, N.J. The next evening, I flew out of Newark and arrived in Lisbon at dawn.

"I love it here. A lot of people speak English, so despite difficulties with Portuguese signage and online instructions, I have been able to deal with whatever task I undertake. The people in Portugal are kind and welcoming. If you even look like you might need help, they readily reach out to you.

"I am very happy with my decision to move here. I look forward to being really settled, so I can continue the research and writing of my novel. I've made some progress, but a lot of the work lies before me."

So, to the wondrous Class of 1968: Be well, send a note and visit Miami when you can.

1969

Nathaniel Wander
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What **Mark Saul** carried away from Barnard cannot be topped. "Barnard has shaped my life. Sophomore year, I walked into Russian class in Hamilton Hall. The teacher was Galina Stilman. I had wanted to learn Russian since I was 12, but the school system made me learn French, so I was thrilled to be there. Seven men, four of them my good friends, and a woman. Woman? What was she doing there? Must be the teacher's assistant. (Chauvinist.) Never mind. I moved my seat from my old (male) friend to sit one discreet chair away from her. Strained to read her name on her notebook. Got it wrong. No matter. We walked out together and became friends. Reader, I married her. It's now 52 years, three kids and three grandchildren later. Carried away, indeed."

Bob Rabinoff responded with the complete lyrics to "Be Prepared," noting that mathematician and songwriter Tom Lehrer remains alive at 92.

I add that, at 90, Lehrer received a laudatory writeup in *Nature*, the world's longest published science journal. See it online: nature.com/articles/d41586-018-03922-x.

Henry Jackson remembers a timed game played in Hartley Hall,

"Green Beret." "Contestants jumped down from one of the second-floor balconies, jumped from sofa to sofa and chair to chair in the lobby, being sure to land on each one, and then clambered up the other side to that second-floor balcony. The contestant with the best time was declared the winner. As I recall, **Andy Bronin** devised the game. It certainly sounds like something he would have done."

Andy indeed devised the game, and I'd be truly surprised if anyone ever beat him at it.

"As for your Barnard question, I took a course from Professor Kenneth Cooper as a senior, and I used to see him on Broadway in the late '70s, when my first wife (now deceased) was a Library School student."

Martin Kafka writes: "I retired from clinical psychiatry four years ago and have been thoroughly enjoying my post-work life by traveling internationally with my wife, Karen (prior to the pandemic), and taking classes through Brandeis University's program for persons in retirement. Through Brandeis, I've been studying American history, digital photography and memoir writing (the right age for that!). I have continued to play jazz piano on a daily basis and have lived in Newton, Mass., for close to 33 years. My grown 'kids' are dispersed, with Julie (30) living outside Boulder and working toward a Ph.D. in public health and Adam (26) living in San Francisco and a software engineer. Sending safe hugs to my classmates."

Renee Chinguapin also reflected on Barnard alumnae. "Barnard graduates back then faced unimaginable obstacles living out their wonderful education's potential."

Michael Jacoby Brown found meeting Barnard students unnecessarily complicated. "What I carried away from our relations with Barnard was that it was a pretty stupid idea to have only males at Columbia, and I am glad the College wised up, although too late for me. In our sophomore year my best friend, **Daniel Grutzendler** (who tragically died by suicide in the middle of that year), and I tried to meet some Barnard students by signing up for Latin because it was only given at Barnard. The other main thing I remember about Barnard were the complex sign-out rules the 'girls' had to put up with: not a great way to prepare any adult for real life."

I suspect many of us had unhappy brushes with *in loco parentis*.

Nathaniel Wander divided his undergraduate time fairly evenly between the Barnard and Columbia anthropology departments. In the Fall 2020 issue, he remarked on his connection to Barnard anthropologist Abraham Rosman (who died last spring and was memorialized by his department in July), but he was as strongly connected to Rosman's wife, Professor Paula Rubel GSAS'63, who died and was memorialized two years earlier. He has two potent memories of her.

"Paula taught 'Urban Societies,' which provided one of my first serious opportunities to conduct anthropological fieldwork. We obtained the research protocols from David M. Schneider's *American Kinship: A Cultural Account* and tested them in a variety of ethnic communities. I chose a mélange of Northern European Protestants — French, Dutch, English — centered on a Methodist church on Staten Island. Spending Sunday after Sunday immersed in the pietism and lamb's blood of the Wesleyan hymnal was real culture shock for this Jewish kid from Brooklyn.

"Professor Rubel also set us a final exam of near-graduate level exaction and was clearly disappointed by our essays. Before returning our exams she 'apologized.' 'I should have been clearer in my instructions and asked you to write your responses in English, or whatever your native language.' I got an A- for the course; presumably I was a bit less of a disappointment than some.

"In spring 2008, I had just completed six years as a research anthropologist at UC San Francisco and was entrained to taking up a similar position at the University of Edinburgh. Along with Jessica Wiederhorn GSAS'77 — a former graduate student of the Rosmans and my 'first student' when I became a graduate teaching assistant in 1973 — I was invited to their apartment for brunch as I passed through New York. Having lived away from the city for more than 25 years by then, the platters of Zabar's lox and whitefish and fresh bagels was exactly what I'd been missing. Paula would have been about 75 then, scarcely older than I am now, but when you've not quite reached

60, 75 still seems old. The only difference I noticed in her from when we'd met 40 years earlier was that her curly red hair had gone iron grey. If the Energizer Bunny had reincarnated as a human, it would have been Paula Rubel."

Question: What music have you carried away from Columbia? What music carries you back to your Class of '69 experience?

1970

Leo Kailas
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First, I send my sincere wishes that all classmates are staying well during the Covid-19 epidemic. I have been working from my home office in Great Barrington, Mass., since March 16, and have adjusted quite well to life in a semi-rural community with my wife and youngest daughter. My wife and I recently did a 14-hour drive to Milwaukee to visit our oldest daughter (who is pregnant) and our granddaughter, Cassie (3) — a future Columbia College applicant for sure.

On to the real news: My high school classmate Professor **Robert Launay** reports: "I have recently adopted a new hobby — translating medieval French poetry (especially song) into English verse. If you think of this as a puzzle, like a crossword puzzle or Sudoku, it seems less weird. What is more, you get to keep the answer and even share it. **David Lehman** has very kindly encouraged me, and has recently published one of my translations on his blog, *Best American Poetry*, which I enthusiastically recommend to anyone interested in contemporary poetry: bit.ly/3pncu5y."

The aforementioned **David Lehman** sent two of his articles, which I read, and then we had a follow-up exchange. First Professor Lehman sent the following: "You might enjoy these two new publications, one a piece of fiction, the other a post about a little-known but excellent movie from the late 1940s; online at bit.ly/3nedGq1 and at bit.ly/32BCbWj." After telling David how much I was impacted by the first, a Teyve piece, he followed up with a touching note about his family and his recent hospitalization: "My father and mother were



refugees from Germany and Austria, respectively, but my mother's parents were not so lucky; they were deported and were killed in Riga. I guess we first-generation sons of Holocaust survivors didn't like talking about it all that much back when you were a senior at Bronx Science and I was the same at Stuyvesant. When I was hospitalized for a week at Sloan Kettering another patient on my floor was a famous rabbi who had been flown in from Israel with funds raised by Lubavitcher organizations. He invited me to pray with him and inspired me to do the reading that led up to 'Tale Told To Tevye,' which I dedicated to him."

David is an amazing scholar and an amazing human being.

Speaking of professors, Professor **John D'Emilio** GSAS'72 sent the following: "My latest book was published by in October. *Queer Legacies: Stories from Chicago's LGBTQ Archives* offers an episodic account of activist lives and events from the 1960s through the early 21st century. The book is based entirely on research in collections at the Gerber/Hart Library & Archives in Chicago, where I am president of its Board of Directors."

Part of the joy of doing this column is that I get to correspond with such interesting classmates such as **Robert Launay**, **David Lehman** and **John D'Emilio**. Another professor, **Michael Aeschliman** GSAS'91, has become a regular contributor who sends me thought-provoking articles. His latest notes: "It was very kind of you to publish that rather extensive Class Note from me in the Fall 2020 CCT."

"It may be deep superstition but I cannot get it out of my mind that there is something indestructible about persons, personalities and souls, especially such ones as **Hollie Hendrix** and **Ted Tayler**, an idea that has grown on me over the years (and of course, orthodox Xtian doctrine). In that spirit I thought [this] essay might interest you. It is probably my farewell essay on [Malcolm] Muggeridge, on whom I have published half a dozen things since the mid-1970s and a new edition of one of whose novels, *Winter in Moscow* (1934), I edited in 1987."

One of Michael's disciples is English satirist Ian Hislop, editor of the satirical magazine *Private Eye* (Muggeridge had been editor of *Punch*). At

the end of an appreciative interview with Hislop in the London *Times* not too long ago, the otherwise admiring interviewer asked him incredulously if it was true that he regularly attended a Christian church. Hislop answered: "Yes, it's true. You see, I've tried atheism, but I kept having doubts."

The link Professor Aeschliman refers to is Malcolm Muggeridge, *Marked by Mobility and a Search for Morality*: bit.ly/3pjNegx.

1971

REUNION 2021
MAY 24-JUNE 3 (virtual)
JUNE 4-5 (in-person, conditions permitting)
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I was recently in touch with **Richard Berenholtz** SEAS'71, GSAPP'74, my roommate freshman and junior year in Carman Hall. (I buried myself in a solo in Livingston sophomore year for the dreaded pre-med organic chemistry ordeal.) Richard earned an M.Arch. from GSAPP. He worked in that field for 10 years, including four years with I.M. Pei & Partners. During that time, he had three one-man shows of his black-and-white works at galleries in NYC. However, his love of New York and its structures, plus the magnificent profile NYC presents to the world, captured his interest.

For the last 36 years, Richard has photographed New York and produced seven books filled with incredible pictures. Do not take my word for it; his works speak for themselves, and are on his website (photographynewyork.com). Richard has posted some of his works on Facebook, as well. I can say that inspiring beauty aptly applies to his works. For the last three and a half years his focus has been on the photographic series 'Beauty of Decay.' The famous Rizzoli Bookstore in NYC publicized the April release of his book *Skylines of New York*.

And now to a controversy that I guess I started by saying we lived on the 14th floor of Carman

Hall. **Steve Boss** SW'76, BUS'78 informs me that I lived on the 13th floor of Carman Hall. This is not news to me, as we all knew when we lived on what should have been called the 13th floor. However, the elevator button said 14. That our floor was one floor higher than the 12th even on the elevator buttons was blatant. The room numbers started with 14, if I remember right. I guess they thought that Ivy League freshmen were not smart enough to count past 10 or that we would not notice. So please help me here. Was the 13th floor of Carman Hall called the 14th floor in the late 1960s, or am I having a senior moment and confabulating? Inquiring minds do not really care, but to assess my sanity, let me know.

Steve Boss, who raised this question in my mind — you can always count on an engineer to get the math right — retired four years ago as deputy executive director/chief financial officer of World Education Services, an international education organization. Since then he has been doing a lot of photography. "I go out with **Richard Berenholtz** SEAS'71, GSAPP'74, an accomplished and much-published location photographer (his seventh book is *Skylines of New York*; see earlier in the column) During the past three years, we've been to 40 abandoned locations — power plants, prisons, theaters and so on, letting ourselves in and shooting what is left to shoot. You can view some of my shots at stevenboss.com, where I also have some travel photographs and NYC photos. Since March, I haven't socialized with anyone but my wife, except for two escape escapades with Richard to an abandoned cement factory upstate. I wore an N95 mask for eight straight hours, except when I scarfed down a peanut butter sandwich."

[Editor's note: See "The Big Picture" for one of Boss's photos.]

That meal is the **Steve Boss** I remember. Steve and his wife, Caren Bergenfield Steinlight BC'71, have a new grandson in Cambridge, Mass., and the southern extension of his family lives in Philadelphia with an older grandson. Steve is looking forward to the possibility of an in-person 50th reunion if the world allows us.

[Editor's note: As of late October, the Alumni Office is planning Columbia Reunion 2021 as virtual events Monday, May 24–Thursday, June 3, and

in-person events Friday, June 4–Saturday, June 5, conditions permitting. Watch your inbox for more.]

And to finish with a sweet group reminiscence, Steve is vegetarian and notes his last bite as a carnivore was one bite of a meatball hero from Ta-Kome. He says, "It could make a vegetarian out of anybody."

Can't agree more.

Ron Rosenberg thanked me for letting us stay connected. We all enjoy knowing what friends are doing and how the ventures in their lives have proceeded. Ron is the Chancellor Professor of Law and associate dean for graduate programs at William & Mary Law School, although at the end of this year he will formally retire. He resides in Williamsburg, Va., but his wife and he plan to relocate to Charlottesville within a year. He notes, "I was thinking about my first year at Columbia and what a shock it was to my complete being both personally and intellectually. The four years there really were important time for the country and I felt that I was an observer of social and political history during those years."

Ron said he would love to get in touch with some of the guys who played freshman basketball with him.

Tom Barson wrote that he had no idea that Rev. **Taigen Dan Leighton**, whose books he has read for many years, was a classmate. Tom has been a concert promoter, a Methodist minister, a hospital manager and, for more than 25 years, an IT consultant and IT service manager. He retired in October 2019 and repurposed himself with the distraction of editing an economics textbook during the Covid-19 lockdown. He and his wife, Nancy Lorris, live in East Lansing, Mich.

Tom would love to recontact and resume communications with some of his old college friends.

As would we all.

Robert Gailus has the sad task of reporting that **Tim DeBaets** passed early in the morning of September 27, 2020. About 10 days prior Tim fell in a parking lot where construction was in process. He suffered injuries that required hospitalization and during his treatment developed sepsis and died. At this time, I have only been told he is survived by his wife, Kathy. May she be able to lean on the support of her good friends. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

We are coming up on our 50th reunion. We are bonded by the experience of an era, and our college environment. Let's keep the friendships ongoing and maybe start new ones. Let your classmates know how you are doing and what adventures you are launched on. We are the Class of 1971, a brotherhood forged in a time not dissimilar to now. The way to join together is to keep your classmates informed. Please send me an update as to how your boat is sailing on the sea of life.

1972

Paul Appelbaum
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Times are odd around campus these days. Only about 20 percent of undergrads were allowed to return for the fall term, and all College classes are online. For those who are here, Broadway is a much sparser experience, though many local restaurants have taken over sidewalks or curbs for outdoor seating, lending the streets a more populated feel. I write this just before the election, as Covid-19 cases are spiking around the country. New York, which has seen blessedly few cases since the horrors of the spring, seems to be on the uptick as well. We await the coming days with some degree of trepidation. The students who are going through this will have very different memories of their College years than we do.

Mike Gerrard, who since January 2009 has been at the Law School as a full-time professor of environmental and energy law, and as founding director of the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law, provides a sense of life around here: "Last March, with just a few days' notice, we switched entirely to online instruction. After some emergency Zoom training, my colleagues and I managed to complete the term that way. With no end to the pandemic in sight, I'm teaching remotely the entire 2020–21 academic year. I've been in Manhattan only once since March — a quick trip in July to retrieve some notes and books from my Columbia office. I think my classes (both lectures and seminars) have gone surprisingly well; Zoom allows breakout rooms and other ways to foster interaction. I hold video office hours with students. I'm also

heavily involved with Columbia's Earth Institute (soon to morph into the new Climate School). We have a full agenda of items to work on as the global climate crisis escalates. I badly miss informal interactions and chance encounters with students, colleagues and others, but I speak by phone or video with many people every day and don't feel especially isolated."

Mike was quoted in *The New York Times* not long ago on the possibility of injecting particles into the atmosphere to reflect sunlight and combat the warming of the earth. He continues, "My wife, Barbara, and I have been pretty much self-quarantining at our home in Chappaqua, N.Y., a leafy suburb that is conducive to social distancing and long dog walks. Our son David '03, his wife, Grace, and our granddaughter Amelia (2.5) live in a condo a mile from us, which is perfect. Our other son, William '05, and his wife, Anya, blessed us with a grandson, Neri, a few months ago, but they live in Los Angeles and we've seen Neri only on Zoom. We're yearning to meet him in person when we feel comfortable flying again."

Some people have found comfort and distraction during the pandemic in their hobbies. **Steve Bellovin**, a professor in the computer science department at Columbia, for example, says, "For whatever reason, in the last few years I've become an avid bird photographer. It's amazing what can be found in the parks around Columbia — hawks, falcons, bald eagles, herons, egrets, owls and more — and it's even more amazing that I can regularly walk through these parks with an expensive-looking camera and not feel terrified."

You can follow Steve's bird shots on his Twitter feed, @UrbanDinosaurs, like I do.

Another of our academics is **William Germano**, who has a new book, *Syllabus: The Remarkable, Unremarkable Document That Changes Everything*, co-written with Kit Nicholls. William notes, "Though we wrote it just before the pandemic, we think it speaks to the present moment. Quick take for teachers: 'It's not about what you do, it's about what they do.' I'm told it's inspiring and makes a great gift. Here's a link: bit.ly/3m2UcEB."

William also notes, "I'm still teaching, though my Cooper Union classes are all on Zoom, alas. Covid-19 only thickens the patina of



Left to right, Rich Troiano '73, Jim Winskowicz '73 and Gerry Mason '73 met up in Scottsdale, Ariz., in January 2019.

nostalgia that coats my memory of Humanities classes in Hamilton, but we were really there, immature and underslept, not merely on-screen specters. The freshmen I now teach must daily invent their classes, not merely log in to them. My heart goes out to students everywhere right now. Teachers, too." But he adds some good news: "Last June, our son Chris married the excellent Kassi Nelson, who completed her doctorate in occupational therapy a month earlier. Like many young people this year, they've moved the big blowout to 2021."

Arnold Horowitz reports, "My family is doing fine, since the pandemic bears down hardest on the weakest in society, unfortunately. My wife works full time from home, producing international broadcasts for Voice of America, so some rooms resemble a video studio with green screens and Klieg lights. One son works full time for an IT firm that has been 90 percent virtual for several years anyway. Another son takes college courses from home. I go to work in the office, but cautiously. My longtime habit of bicycling is now much more in fashion than ever before. We visited a fellow Columbia alumnus recently, but on his porch and at 12-ft. separation. We wonder what is going to happen next, because this experience will permanently transform society, I think. And Manhattan and Morningside seem, from a distance, threatened by long-term damage as never before. That worries me."

1973

Barry Etra
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Our world continues to be ... whorled. May the lag between this writing and your reading bring relief.

Gerry Mason sent a photo of three '73 guys who met up in Scottsdale in January (January *two years ago* — sometimes a correspondent is lame). Gerry co-founded his own investment banking firm, Granite Partners, lives in Boston and is writing a book about the evolution of gut bacteria in humans. **Rich Troiano** had been a principal at Cisco Systems and has started a clean coal company with worldwide operations; he is still in Pittsburgh. **Jim Winskowicz** was a senior exec at Guaranty Fund Management Services. He now plays golf in Phoenix and reminisces about his Baker Field pitching career. The group's life motto: "Hard Work and Clean Living."

Sorry for the delay!

Joel Glucksman and his wife, Freddie, welcomed their sixth grandchild. Joel reinforces our notions that "being a grandpa is way more fun than parenting." His only issue: Four of those grandchildren are in Los Angeles, while Joel and Freddie remain in Maplewood, N.J., in the house where they raised their boys. The remaining two, luckily, are but 20 minutes away in Jersey City.

Greg Gall GSAPP'79 practices architecture and lives in Tarrytown,



N.Y. He is the head fencing coach at The Hackley School, as well. His wife, Kim Waddell, was a former director at IBM, now retired; their daughter Christine married James Sherrard last September in Shelburne, Vt.

Thanks to those who wrote in, and pleas to those who didn't. Hasta, and be well.

1974

Fred Bremer
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With the newspaper headlines filled this past fall with articles on Covid-19, the election and the new Supreme Court justice, a milestone passed unrecognized: It was the 50th anniversary of the final episode of the 1960s TV comedy *Get Smart*. The original air date was September 11, 1970; it occurred just as we were packing our bags to go to Columbia College to ... get smart! None of us had cell phones at the time (even ones in our shoes), but I bet many of us had dreams of finding our own Agent 99! And by coincidence, the show was broadcast on CBS — the *Columbia Broadcasting System*.

We heard from Dr. **Stephen DeCherney** PH'98, who has spent 16 years as a professor of endocrinology at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine in Chapel Hill and is a former adjunct professor at the UNC Kenan-Flagler School of Medicine. He tells us he consults on patients in the hospital, teaches and "does a little research on Covid-19." Steve laments, "I tried to retire about 10 years ago, and utterly failed at it. I lasted about three months." So back he went to rejoin the faculty, and now seems busier than ever. Steve is a board member or executive advisor to six bioscience corporations, and is on the board of Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights and the University of Delaware Research Foundation, and is a trustee of the William Harvey Research Foundation at Queen Mary University of London.

Now that is a failed retirement!

Steve says he is the "proud grandfather" of five, all under the age of 4. He adds that they are spread across the country and comments, "Thank heavens for FaceTime and Zoom!"

A thin envelope arrived recently that contained a likeness of what you

received in a thick envelope some 50 years ago. **Mark Carrabes** sent a copy of his College acceptance letter, dated April 17, 1970, signed by John Wellington '57 (director of admissions at the time). It is amazing that Mark knew how to find this important document! He didn't include any information on what he's up to these days, but the Christchurch APO postmark suggests he might still be a supply officer at the U.S. Navy facility in New Zealand.

Anyone in contact with Mark?

A short note came in from Dr. **David Turkewitz** (York, Pa.) saying simply that he enjoyed reading the updates in *CCT* on classmates. Curious about what else he was up to, I did a Google search and found out a lot more. David is chair of pediatrics at the WellSpan York Hospital and in 2014 was named "Pediatrician of the Year" by the Pennsylvania chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Through the years he has been committed to researching child abuse and neglect and is one of the senior members of the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Medical/Legal Advisory Board on Child Abuse. He was quoted, "We need to move past the social norm that it is OK to hit children under the guise of discipline."

After a career in the healthcare industry, **Patrick Dowd** retired around 2006 and moved with his wife, Dawn, to Vida, Ore. (a small town on the McKenzie River), expecting a bucolic setting to enjoy fishing and boating, when he wasn't traveling around the world. Then Patrick got an urgent midnight notice they had to evacuate due to the approaching wall of flames last October. He says his house was saved because it was originally a firehouse and had a brick core. Last word is that they had temporarily relocated to Bend, Ore.

I will try to get details on Patrick's situation.

After 24 years of building the Mount Sinai Department of Dermatology into one of the largest in the nation, Dr. **Mark Lebwohl** (Manhattan) has been promoted to dean for clinical therapeutics at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. While he will continue to see patients and do clinical work, Mark is now tasked with generating clinical research programs throughout the Mount Sinai Health System in New York City.

There you have it. More classmates appear to be getting promoted and working harder rather than retiring. Whether you are still working or you've made the big leap to "the life of leisure," pass on the news!

1975

Randy Nichols
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Steve Miller retired from a 30-year career as a lawyer in 2015, spending the time since in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, at the headquarters of one of the Dutch industrial conglomerates. Since then, he has pursued an old love and found a new one. First, he coaches swimmers at the high school and club level — for the past 18 months with the Greenwich YMCA Marlins, primarily with the Junior Team, ages 8–13. He says it's very rewarding and fulfilling to pass on his knowledge and enthusiasm for a sport that has meant so much to him. Steve's new love is mosaics. He learned from two world-class artists, both Russian emigres, who, pre-Covid-19, had a studio near FIT. Of course, Steve specializes in Grateful Dead and other iconic images. One of his pieces hangs at The Capitol Theatre in Port Chester, N.Y. (a Jerry Garcia album cover, *Cats Under the Stars*). Another, a mandala, was selected to be in the Art to the Avenue event in Greenwich, Conn. (near the CBD store, of all places), but alas the event was canceled. Steve was also commissioned to do a small piece as an award for a Columbia University Medical Center-NewYork Presbyterian Hospital nurse who is at the forefront of the Covid battle.

Steve says, "I am forever grateful that Assistant Dean Roberta Spagnola TC'69, and others, overlooked some of my finer moments and that I received my A.B." Steve also gives a shoutout to **Albert Mrozik**, his lab partner in organic chemistry.

Bob Sciafani enjoyed reading about **Jose "Cheo" Diaz** and his short autobiography, *From the Streets of New York City*, in a previous column. Bob writes, "Jose and I were roommates in Carman Hall freshman year along with **Henry Woo** and **Edwin Vega**, who is mentioned in the autobiography. (See more from Edwin later in this

column.) Jose's mother was a great cook and he frequently shared food with us. We had great food in our suite between Jose and Edwin's Puerto Rican, Henry's Chinese and my Italian dishes. The other guys in Carman were always jealous of us. Of note, we were frequently visited by floormates **Manuel Bu** and **Victor Fiorenza**. I visited Jose at WKCR, as I was already a big Tito Puente fan. The dancing was amazing. On a trip to Puerto Rico years ago, everybody was impressed with my moves. My one faux pas after eating a great Mofongo was asking about *Rabo Guisado*, to which I was told, "That's Dominican, man." Jose's bio was a great way to find out what happened to him after Columbia."

A couple of weeks before writing this I saw an announcement of the availability of **Joel Stern's** pop-up book *In a Spooky Haunted House*. What a fun thing to have! I asked Joel to share a little about his experience creating and producing these gems. He shared: "Several years ago at an origami convention (there really are such things!), I met with a book packager with whom I began to work on an idea for a pop-up book that could be produced relatively inexpensively — each page was to be made from a single sheet, with no glue points. We tossed around a few ideas, and came up with a haunted house book. I wrote some verses that lead a child through different rooms of the house, which the book packager liked.

"I produced a proof-of-concept pop-up to show to different publishers. Happily, Simon & Schuster loved the idea and found a wonderful illustrator, Christopher Lee, who produced the whimsical pictures to accompany my verses.

"Working from a rough draft of the illustrations, I began to design the six pop-ups. When designing these kinds of pop-ups, your role is like that of a director. How many elements of the illustration will pop? Which figures will be closest to the viewer? Which the farthest? Can any of them be combined? Then there are the constraints: When closed, does any paper extend beyond the edges? For any cut-out element, does the resulting hole disfigure other important elements, or distract from the overall effect? There was some back-and-forth, as both illustrations and pop-ups needed to be adjusted for maximum effect."

Edwin Vega earned an M.B.A. in 1977 in finance from NYU. He moved to Los Angeles in 1982. Edwin says he has enjoyed his business career, working for several companies in different financial positions before finally settling in with his passion of working with small businesses as a commercial loan officer. With the financial crisis in 2008, he had to reinvent himself, and he became a high school math teacher. Edwin now teaches online at a charter school to socially/economically disadvantaged high school students. He admits it is tough but rewarding. Edwin has been married for 41 years to Ida Maldonado Vega. They have a daughter, Isette Marie Hammer, who married last year. Edwin's favorite hobbies are martial arts and salsa dancing. He and his wife love traveling, seeing Europe and the National Parks. They see lots of movies. He is in frequent contact with **Fernando Castro**, an architect and poet, who lives about 25 miles from him.

1976

REUNION 2021

MAY 24-JUNE 3 (virtual)

JUNE 4-5 (in-person, conditions permitting)

Events and Programs Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact
ccfund@columbia.edu

Ken Howitt
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Music is on in Hoboken with our hometown favorite Frank Sinatra singing "Ring-A-Ding Ding," which begins with a great lyric to describe the 2020 pandemic/isolation situation: "Life is dull / It's nothing but one big lull ..." But for me, all the people who reach out give me plenty to write about for this issue.

I lead off with news from the Dennis-rosa in Syracuse. Mika, their human-like canine, is demanding when I visit, so any news from **Dennis Goodrich** gets the lead-off spot, especially when it is about his daughter Katy Goodrich, who visited me in Hoboken a year ago. Katy works in London for Adobe, where she is a customer success director. The website uk.finance.yahoo named her as one of "The HERoes top 100 female future

leaders 2020," specifically mentioning her "leadership of social impact teams involves creating internal programs and community partnerships to promote causes top of mind for Adobe employees, such as championing gender diversity in tech."

I have exchanged a few emails and a phone call with **Gordon Kit**. Due to the pandemic he is sorely missing his travel adventures, which he normally goes on every three to four months. Still, each week Gordon drives to the Maryland or Virginia countryside, where he cycles about 30 miles mid-week and 50-60 miles on the weekend. Now he's using his newly leased hybrid SUV, replacing the 2014 model he owned outright. As he noted, "With advances in car technology occurring so rapidly now, it seemed to make more sense to lease than to buy." Gordon is still trying "to figure out what all of the buttons do and how to access all of the new safety features ... and importantly, how to preset the radio stations: 'This isn't a Model T, after all!'" he says.

More importantly, assuming the Columbia Covid-19 policy permits, Gordon is still hoping for an in-person third annual Dr. Saul and Dorothy Kit Film Noir Festival at the Lenfest Center for the Arts, which at the time of this column's writing is tentatively scheduled to run Wednesday, April 7-Sunday, April, 11, after Passover. Alternatively, Gordon noted, "We're exploring the possibility of running a virtual film festival this spring." The theme: "Film Noir & the Jewish Experience: From WWII to the Blacklist," was planned for March 2020 but canceled due to Covid.

As a result of the pandemic, the festival is stalled in year three of a 10-year commitment. Check out the Kit Noir website (arts.columbia.edu/noir) early this year for an announcement as to the final form of the 2021 festival.

Since the festival is named in honor of Gordon's parents and the love of film noir they passed down to him, Gordon is committed to not missing another year. Having attended the first two years of the festival, I can't wait to attend in person or virtually this year.

John Mason sent the following: "In January 2020, I went to my 40th M. Arch. reunion and saw UCLA classmate and Columbia housemate

Al Borgo '77. Al lives in splendor with his wife, Yvonne, and family in a lovely house overlooking Catalina Island. In February, with Olivia Rowan, my wife of 30 years (we met while working at Robert A.M. Stern '60's office 33 years ago), we went to Montpellier, in the South of France. We were visiting our younger son in his junior term and we returned to Provence, where we honeymooned 30 years ago. Of course, he had to be evacuated to finish his French year in his room in Brooklyn a couple of weeks later. Our eldest has relocated to Albuquerque, where he remotely edits video for Condé Nast, Seeding Sovereignty and Abolish ICE!

"Olivia and I have surrogated our travels to biking the Erie Canalway Trail in segments. Lovely trail with lots of history, and sparsely populated. We started in Troy and have left off the last time in Chittenango. We have many more miles to get to Buffalo."

From **Barry LaBoda**: "I retired in August after serving for 13 years as an administrative law judge with the Social Security Administration and 25 years as a practicing lawyer in Orlando. For now, my wife and I are pursuing local interests, including gardening, photography and genealogy. We walk daily along oak-lined streets near home in Winter Park, Fla. Our Columbia experience created pathways for us to mentally explore the world. I hope we'll all be able to continue physically exploring the world once the pandemic has ended."

My WKCR mate and fellow 45th Reunion Committee member, **Joe Graif BUS'78**, continues to reinvent himself. Joe is a great musician, who at one reunion played the organ at St. Paul's on Sunday morning. It never ceases to amaze me how committed the '76ers are to just continuing to live life to the fullest, no matter the obstacles. If you use TurboTax this coming filing season, you just might cross video "paths" with Joe, as what he describes as "a live 'Tax Expert.'" Joe has also decided to prepare for and take the exams to become an enrolled agent with the IRS. He is a C.P.A., licensed to practice in three states and the District of Columbia. Joe envisions the new credential leading to synergies that will greatly enhance his public practice.

As your columnist, I reworded his contribution with his permission but decided to leave the word "expert"

alone, which upholds a long-standing '76er tradition of cynicism!

Bob Wolleben is becoming my role model with this report: "I'm happily retired in Delaware after 42 years working in hospital management. Our last child will be married by the time this is published; then I can really kick back and relax."

Tony Anemone has a great plan similar to Bob's: "After 36 years teaching Russian language, literature and cinema at Colby College, The College of William & Mary and The New School, I will retire from full-time teaching at the end of the 2020-21 academic year. In addition to continuing researching and writing about Russian cinema, I'm looking forward to more time for my hobbies: travel, sea-kayaking and film photography."

The best part of this column is enjoying the youthful enthusiasm from classmates. Your updates just have so much info in so few words. **John Healy** exemplifies that spirit with this simple and enjoyable news flash: "I got married on October 3! All our children and grandchildren were in the wedding party. Very cool. Guest list was a lot smaller than originally intended, but it was a great time."

"My oldest grandson is a first-year at Columbia College. But not ours, the one in Chicago. That has made for some interesting and funny family conversations — your Columbia or my Columbia."

"Did interviews of potential students for the Alumni Representative Committee and will do it again. Very positive experience. I recommend more '76ers get involved. We have a lot to offer these young people."

So, the album *Sinatra Sings the Songs of Van Heusen and Cahn* just got to "Swinging on a Star," which starts off with, "Would you like to swing on a star / Carry moonbeams home in a jar / And be better off than you are / Or would you rather be a mule?" For me, this song sums up a lifetime of looking for moonbeams, like a lot of classmates. However, as the years advance, the idea of being a mule does seem to kick in more often than I like. Especially, 2020 made that an ongoing temptation.

Instead, I keep up with all of you and bask in the celebrations of life that you contribute. I also hear from other friends due to this column. In October, a Six Hartley floormate,



Bruce Levine '77, reached out, and we had a lovely afternoon chatting at his home in Rockland County, N.Y. Bruce has spent a career in politics, law and public service. Renewing old and treasured friendships is definitely one of those moonbeams.

Another moonbeam is the pending 45th reunion. The committee is hard at work with Alumni Office staff, trying to plan for unknown circumstances. Contingency planning seems an understatement, but you can be sure you will get emails from the Reunion Committee about virtual or in-person events when those plans are finalized. The perpetual reunion chair, Mr. Moonbeam himself, **Steve Davis**, now has help from me and another co-chair, **John Connell**. We have a lot of great classmates on the committee, but welcome others' participation.

Finally, these times bring my parents to mind quite often. If they were here to read this column, I know they would have one comment. "Why did we spend all that money on Columbia and that great Core Curriculum, if almost 50 years later he is quoting Sinatra songs?" My answer to them would be simple: Columbia's undergraduate education gave me the ability to define my own classics!

1977

David Gorman
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There was not enough news at this time for a column. It may be that everyone was distracted, as I was, at the end of a difficult year. Anyway, expect news and notes in the Spring/Summer issue. Meanwhile, I hope that everyone has been staying safe, healthy and reasonably sane. Do not hesitate to let classmates know how you are feeling and how you have been coping. With best wishes for a better — way better! — 2021.

1978

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Good news is that by deploying the techniques of the political fundraising emails (which I was getting 20 times a day in October) I tripled the responses for the column. Bad news

is *CCT* is so successful these days that its word limit means half who wrote won't get in until the Spring/Summer issue.

"Despite what you reported in *CCT* in the Fall 2020 issue," says **Bruce Fraser**, "I am not studying, nor have I ever studied, organic chemistry. I marvel at all of you that did. Instead, I am a real estate finance attorney at the Los Angeles office of Sidley Austin."

"My son Holden is studying law at Chicago, and daughter Grace is a law student at American."

"Columbia taught me to expect the unexpected and to make the best of the situation with wonder and humor. I do think there was more free speech at Columbia when we were there and don't remember efforts to cancel opposing views. Those times sparked debate and intellectual endeavors, and I would hate to experience today's anti-intellectual environment that I read about."

"I am reading biographies, which provides encouragement that this will pass and that perhaps some great men or women will rise and help this nation to move past this partisan divide. I wish we could ban political parties, as so many put them above everything else."

Bruce, we are still trying to figure out who sent in the wrong information!

Don Guttenplan remarks, "It's been a difficult, scary and worrisome time. But one of the things that has gotten me through it — and even overcoming the sense of Zoom overdose I'm sure many of us feel — has been the weekly Carman 8 Zoom convened by Sid Holt '79, from a ways up the Hudson, and regularly attended by **Jeff Klein**, from Buffalo; **Larry Friedman**, from Saint Louis; my old Memphis friend **Don Share**; and me, mostly from London but now from across the East River, with frequent guest appearances by **Rick MacArthur**; **Joel Charap**, from Thailand (!); **Duncan Moore**, another Columbian in spirit and former Carman resident; and the 'Barbara Stanwyck' to all of us nutty professors, the original Barnard Ball of Fire, Jami Bernard BC'78."

"Our topics run the gamut from the politics of poetry to the art of writing great headlines to tales of old New York."

"Looking ahead, we must take care of all the people who live here,

native-born and immigrants, with a healthcare system appropriate to the wealthiest country in the history of the world. But I'd settle for seeing the Trump family behind bars."

Fellow Connecticut resident **John Flores LAW'81** says, "I have only been going into the office three days per week. Really strange in that most of the day I sit in my office with the door closed and talk to people on the phone. In other words, I could do it at home, but the state wants the senior team in the office. I welcomed a fifth grandchild in November, and will try to figure out the logistics to get to Virginia!"

"I'm not sure anything we learned at College prepared us for this pandemic, but I'm so glad my daughters finished school, because I would be pissed if I had to pay full tuition for remote learning!"

Marc Bogatin reports, "After 40 years of law practice as a litigator, I plan to retire this March. No more clients or judges!"

"Contrary to the Fall 2020 column, we did have a Freshman Orientation. I remember we had a choice of lectures, and I heard James Shenton '49, GSAS'54 speak on 'The Ethnic Factor in New York Politics.' He began with the joke that he thought he had been asked to lecture on 'The Ethical Factor' and did not know how he could say anything about that subject. Also, we had to fulfill that strange requirement of a College degree, the swim test. I am sure I'm not the only one who remembers the sight of 500 naked men lined up to complete a lap!"

Dr. Marcel Favetta proves you never have to stop learning, "I recently earned an M.B.A. in health care. Early last year I traveled to São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, as part of a global health curriculum to present a paper on putting AI technologies in the hands of community health workers in remote rural areas of Brazil."

"My Columbia education's takeaway on the pandemic is that if the USA were attempting the siege of Troy, we would have given up after six months and just left."

"I have been a practicing internist since 1986, currently in Western Michigan," notes **Harry Kousourou**. "My son Gabe is a rheumatology fellow at Indiana University in Indianapolis."

"Looking back, I cultivated a great respect for scientific principles at Columbia and the historical

context in which they can be applied such as looking at public health measures used during the 1918 pandemic in places such as NYC."

"Looking ahead, I'm hoping Americans can get past their differences and unite in recovering from these times of adversity, much as they did in the wake of 9-11."

Robert Anthony is another of the outstanding journalists from our class. "I still write tech and business features for various publications, but I also work with Digimentors, a company that takes events and conferences virtual. It was started by Columbia's former chief digital officer, Sree Sreenivasan."

"I have more than one million followers on Pinterest (paperpcpics.com) and I'm on social media platforms as @newyorkbob. Working at *Spectator* taught me that it's better to be plugged into the world than to be a grub quietly working alone in a silo."

"I'm convinced that common sense is right most of the time, like when to wear a mask and stay socially distant."

"The spirit of free speech was here in the '70s, including the day I sat on a window ledge of Low Library holding a corner of a 'Divest from South Africa' banner!"

"The pandemic has given me more time to read books such as *Inside the Empire: The True Power Behind the New York Yankees*, by Bob Klapisch '79, who followed me as sports editor at *Spectator*."

Dr. Michael Schuider PS'82 notes, "After P&S I trained in neurosurgery at the Einstein/Montefiore program. Then I was faculty at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School for 19 years, most of which was under the leadership of my medical school mentor, Dr. Peter Carmel. In 2007 I moved to Northwell Health in neurosurgery, and became director of the Northwell Health Brain Tumor Center of the Neuroscience Institute and the residency program director. It's been a great 13 years, with more to come."

"My wife, Lu Steinberg, is a clinical psychologist in private practice and has a strong involvement in academic psychology. Our two daughters are following in her footsteps."

"I'm happy to say that I'm still friends with my Carman suitemate **Tim Burnett**, and we had dinner together in 2019 when he was in from California."

"I'm hoping in the future we can be more tolerant of differences and empathize, cooperate and help each other out.

"My recollection of College is that we could say whatever we wanted, voice any political opinion."

"Last October was the seventh anniversary of my retirement from the State Department," writes **Christopher Dell**. "I haven't regretted leaving, as the last four years would have been unconscionable, to say the least. I'm into my third semi-career, working on project finance in the African power and infrastructure space and sitting on the board of an Australian renewables startup.

"My wife and I have used this strange time to explore Washington, D.C., walking every day to different neighborhoods and lesser-known historic sites. So Covid-19 hasn't been a total loss.

"We are grateful every day for being — so far — in good health. I spent an hour every day last summer writing 1,500 get-out-the-vote letters, so I did my bit to help our country begin to recover. We must quickly restore the trust of our friends and allies, and regain the respect of other nations for our commitment to democracy and human rights while becoming a leader on climate issues, especially embracing renewable energy.

"I've tried to use this time to further my reading in the history of the Portuguese discoveries and to write more of the popular history I'm trying to pull together."

Dr. **Alec Bodkin** tells a tale: "I have long worked as a shrink to advance the medical remediation of depressive disorders. Unfortunately, the FDA blocked my second and final effort on behalf of patients suffering from depressive illness based on what would appear to have been political reservations. This was a huge loss to patients suffering from the most painful of maladies for whom standard fare did no good. I have also worked on unraveling the complex heritability of psychotic disorders. I must say that the damage to social relations from Covid-19 is a tragedy for those who are no longer young.

"From studying the past at Columbia we can see there is nothing new here. Newton and Shakespeare made good use of their time in isolation, as we all must do. One thing I do worry about is that

political correctness can at times be as harmful as the need to face up to the delusions of the religious right."

Thanks, everyone, for writing in, and apologies to anyone whose news won't get printed until the Spring/Summer issue.

1979

Robert C. Klapper
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Last May, **Clarence Waldron JRN'80** was the recipient of the 2020 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Chicago Headline Club, the nation's largest chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. Each year it administers the Peter Lisagor Awards, which recognize excellence in journalism.

Clarence has enjoyed a distinguished career in journalism for more than 35 years, including a 29-year tenure as a senior writer and senior editor of *Jet Magazine*. He has been an adjunct professor at Northwestern University Medill School of Journalism since 1998. His courses include "Reporting & Writing," "Magazine Writing" and "Covering Popular Music," a music journalism course that he created for graduate students. Clarence has also taught at Columbia College Chicago and Loyola University. In 2010, the National Association of Black Journalists presented him with The Legacy Award and named him the "dean of arts and entertainment journalists."

Congratulations, Clarence, on your award and accolades from colleagues and notable celebrities!

News of career changes from **Eric Swenson LAW'82**, who writes, "After 35-plus years as an energy lawyer at big law firms, I elected to focus on pro bono work. To that end, I stepped down in March as a partner at the last (Orrick, Herrington, Sutcliffe) of the four great law firms that I had the pleasure to have worked for to join the Pro Bono Institute as director, Law Firm Pro Bono Project. The change has been rewarding and quite a different experience, partly due to the different scale and partly due to Covid-19 ... At PBI, I collaborate with lawyers and legal services professionals at law firms, corporate legal departments and legal service organizations across the country and around

the world. I hope my new job will result in more chance encounters with CC alums, especially the Class of 1979."

Life's full of new chapters. Best of luck, Eric!

Robert C. Klapper: This Columbia thought comes from the world of surfing. My sophomore year in Hartley Hall, junior year in John Jay Hall and senior year in Furnald Hall had one thing in common: what was hanging in my room. It was a gigantic black-and-white poster of a tiny surfer riding the massive wall of water that is on the north shore of Oahu and is known as Waimea Bay. The surfer is likely to be Greg Noll, whom I have had the pleasure of taking care of over the years.

I sometimes ask myself, "Now that I surf on a regular basis, both here in Ventura, Calif., and in Hawaii, why did I feel drawn to this sport for years before I ultimately took it on?"

Was it the Zen experience that I could recognize ahead of my time? Surfing is filled with Zen philosophers searching for its deep metaphor of life. My favorite surfer is Gerry Lopez, who is known for saying, "If you can buy it with money, it is cheap." Or, is it the philosopher Sam George, who told me, "All things in life — light, sound, our EKG electrodes over our hearts — come in waves." All of these waves of life, however, are invisible. It's only the surfer in our society who gets to see for a few seconds what a wave actually looks like in real life. As if that's not deep enough of a concept, it was Gerry who explained to me, "and remember, Dr. Klapper, we as surfers ride the energy that is flowing through the water ... the water is actually not even moving."

But I have to say, when I think back on what led me to hang a picture of a giant wave on my wall in those concrete jungle rooms we lived in, it must have been the tiny size of the surfer standing on his board that really touched and inspired me, because 45 years later, I finally learned what I must have sensed, seeing that figure on his board. It's because in that poster I saw the ultimate metaphor for life in the eyes of a college student — the nose of the board is the surfer's future and the tail of the board is the surfer's past, but he alone stands in the middle and learns to live in the moment.

This is the life lesson that I must have gravitated to that made my journey those four years so special.

What was hanging on your dorm room wall? Was it Farrah Fawcett or John Travolta? Roar, lion, roar!

1980

Michael C. Brown
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*"Truckin', got my chips cashed in
"Keep truckin', like the do-dab man
"Together, more or less in line
"Just keep truckin' on"*

— Grateful Dead

Last year certainly was unique for all of us, in more ways than one. I, for one, just keep truckin' here in the Big Apple! Sure, fewer people to see, no restaurants to enjoy and clearly no entertainment or music scene. Local sports relegated to television, and no Ivy League sports have really curtailed my enthusiasm. But, more time for family and friends!

Thank you to **Scott Ahern, Eric Blattman, Joe Ciulla, Pat De Souza, Shawn FitzGerald, John Hall and Bruce Paulsen** for their calls and Zoom-ing on a regular basis. It is wonderful to have so many people who care, and the stories keep getting better the more we tell them!

Let's make sure we keep a positive outlook in 2021. I look forward to hearing from you. Drop me a line.

1981

REUNION 2021
MAY 24–JUNE 3 (virtual)
JUNE 4–5 (in-person,
conditions permitting)
Events and Programs Contact
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Like many of you, I am getting Covid-19 fatigue and am pretty much "over it," except the disease is not over with us so we need to take normal precautions as we go about our daily lives. Last year began so promisingly, but for most has unrav-



eled to the point where we were eager to say goodbye to 2020.

Except, perhaps, for **Jack O'Loughlin**, who recently shared great news about his family. Jack's son, John '12, married Paige Cus-covitch '14 in Boston on October 3 with immediate family and close friends in attendance. [Editor's note: See "Just Married!"] Younger son Brendan '15 introduced them in NYC after they graduated and was best man. At Columbia, John ran indoor and outdoor track and Paige was captain of the lacrosse team (hmm, if they have children will they be Columbia athletes?). John and Paige moved to Boston in 2019, where Paige is a physician's assistant in the ER at Massachusetts General Hospital and John is a relationship manager for Wells Fargo Commercial Real Estate, covering the northeast. Jack also has a daughter, Caroline ('11 Dartmouth), who was married in 2017.

Jack mentioned his deep sadness to learn of the death of **Harlan Simon**, whom everyone knew due to his frantic, kinetic energy as conductor for the Marching Band, in the Fall 2020 issue. Quick wit, ready smile ... these are Jack's memories of Harlan, which I'm sure are common among classmates.

You don't have to be a math major to figure out 2021 means we have been out of college for 40 years, so there must be a reunion. At this time it's difficult to predict if a reunion will happen in NYC, but if it does I encourage all to attend. [Editor's note: As of late October, the Alumni Office is planning Columbia Reunion 2021 as virtual events Monday, May 24–Thursday, June 3, and in-person events Friday, June 4–Saturday, June 5, conditions permitting. Watch your inbox for more.]

Finally, I would like to pass the baton on being the *CCT* class correspondent for CC'81, as I feel a fresh face in this position might stimulate additional responses from classmates. So many of our class went to graduate school on Morningside Heights, or have children who graduated from the College or live in NYC and thus are able to access events on campus (if and when they resume) ... these classmates are in a better position than I to handle this task. Please reach out to me if you have an interest in being the next class correspondent.

1982

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Greetings, gentlemen. As I pen the latest set of Class Notes, we're now approximately nine months into the global pandemic. Such a sad and disconcerting time. Please take this danger seriously; stay safe and responsible.

On the upside, I've used this challenge to my health (see my Summer 2020 note) as inspiration. I have been training heavily and recently completed both the Maroon Bells Loop, which consisted of three days and 34 miles of Rocky Mountain hiking, ranging in altitude from 9,000 ft. to 12,500 ft. four times, and a one-day crossing of the Grand Canyon featuring 24 miles of hiking and 11,000 total feet of vertical.

Given my current preoccupation with all things Covid-19-related, I was very pleased to have the good doctor **Charles Markowitz** check in: "Most recently, I started a hospital-based outpatient rehabilitation and wellness program for Covid survivors here in central New Jersey. Many of those who recover are unfortunately prone to long-lasting residual health problems."

"My medical practice is situated in Lakewood, one of our region's frequent 'hot spots' for Covid. I was interviewed by *Hamodia*, Lakewood's weekly news periodical; read it online: bit.ly/33c4jzS."

"My son, Bryan '19, attends business school at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He is exploring international startups and the promotion of new agricultural technology for the developing world."

Charles, thanks for taking the time to write in, and for all that you're doing to help people! The article is quite interesting and well worth a read.

Continuing with our "Positive Tales of the Pandemic" theme, **Ken Gruber** wrote from sunny Florida, even though he hails from Toronto. He managed to get "stuck" there riding out the pandemic while keeping company with his 88-year-old (fun-to-hang-out-with) mom. Ken notes, "After being a suit-and-tie hospital-ity marketing guy for 25-plus years, I (when not stuck in Florida) have been enjoying self/semi (un)employ-

ment, doing everything from selling vintage collectibles to leading bicycle tours in my hometown of Toronto."

Thanks for checking in, Ken!

Sadly, I have to report on the passing of **Rajan Sekaran**, whose son Doran '23 let us know of his father's passing. *The New York Times* wrote extensively about Rajan. Read the obituary online: [legcy.co/3nOpY8Q](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/26/us/rajan-sekaran).

Rajan will be greatly missed.

Finally, if you've got some time on your hands, and I suspect you do, take a few minutes and send along any sort of update you'd care to.

1983

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I received an unprecedented number of emails and calls from classmates the last few months. During these challenging times, the updates are especially appreciated. I will need to spread them out over several issues. Many who write express how much they appreciate reading our Class Notes. If you haven't done so recently, please share your journey and recollection of your CC experience.

David L. Burg: "Live in Miami. Three kids. In financial services. Wondering if my Sam drawing is worth enough now to fund my retirement! Fondest memory ... watching *The Three Stooges* with my floormates in Carman on a weekend night (sad). Feels like yesterday! Only 50 lbs. heavier than my college weight."

Michael Hickins: "My ebook, *I Lived in France and So Can You*, was published last year. I'm in touch with a fair number of people from CC, including my best friend, **Michael Granville**, whom I met on the first day of Orientation! I'll never forget my sense of awe at being surrounded by so many incredibly smart people — all of them smarter than I — from so many different places. I'm glad to say that I never lost my sense of wonder at being in such a beautiful and privileged space. I hope to have news to share later this year, but in the meantime count me among the many alumni grateful for your contribution to our community."

Kevin Berkowitz (aka **Kevin Berk**): "I live in Thessaloniki, Greece, and am a high school teacher of English and social studies. I remember some guy who used to

sing opera on the B'way sidewalk every day. He was lousy, but he had determination. Did he ever make it to Carnegie Hall?"

Rich Garden: "I am a practicing urologist in Bergen County, N.J., where I live with my wife, Dr. Esther Diamant BC'83. We have three grown children: Hayley, who has a master's in computer animation and works for Hellosaurus, an interactive learning platform for children; Evan, who completed his third year of medical school at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai; and Sam, who is an investment banker for Macquarie. I keep in touch with Dr. Harry Fried '82, Dr. Alan Garten '82, Irwin Studen SEAS'82, Stephen Irolla '82, Rabbi Josh Finkelstein '82 and **Brad Gluck**. My fondest memories of CC revolve around meeting my wife, playing full-court basketball with future President, then-student **Barack Obama**, and enjoying the ability of Professors James Shenton '49, GSAS'54 and Eric Foner '63, GSAS'69 to make U.S. history come alive and be relevant for me."

Steve Holtje: "After 35 years in Brooklyn, I returned to the UWS in February, specifically West End Avenue and 77th Street. Living in the Valley of Zabar's/Citarella/Fairway/Trader Joe's has been convenient. There was an interview with me in the September issue of *JazzTimes* magazine about the record label I run, ESP-Disk. In mid-September we released the second Matthew Shipp Trio album I've produced, *The Unidentifiable*. I'm also the pianist in free-improvisation band Caterpillar Quartet, which released its first album last summer, *Threads*, on the Greene Avenue label."

Bill Schultz: "Throughout Covid-19, we have been in Atlanta. But fortunately, our kids (including our youngest, Daniel '16) and our 1-year-old grandson, Benjamin (prospective CC 2042), have been here for much of the time, a definite silver lining. After moving 16 times (including to Delhi, London, Manila, Berlin and Toronto), this is our longest stretch in one place since ... Columbia!"

Daniel Schechter GSAS'87, PS'91: "After spending nearly a decade at the University Hospitals Geneva Medical Center in child and adolescent psychiatry, I jumped back over the pond to take an endowed associate professorship at NYU

while commuting to Geneva and maintaining my research in maternal-child trauma there. My family and I decided, given all the information and experience at hand, that we would in the long run be happiest in Switzerland. Miraculously, I received a stellar offer at Lausanne University Hospital (CHUV) and started there in July 2019 while remaining adjunct at NYU and Geneva University. I direct the Perinatal and Early Childhood Ambulatory Care and Research Programs in Lausanne, living in Geneva with my wife, Christine, and our teenage sons, Jan and Filip, playing some cello and piano and enjoying life. I'm in touch with Daniel Heuberger '85, Simo Hoite '89, SEAS'90, SEAS'91 and Adam Van Doren '84."

Paul Hauptman: "Roy, I can only imagine how your business was impacted by Covid-19 in NYC."

Paul, actually we were exempted from the closure because we sell essential baby items like wipes and baby bottles and emergency medical items like thermometers.

Michael Calabrese: "I am a professor of English at California State University, Los Angeles, in my 27th year, and I'm happy to now be celebrating the publication of my latest book, a translation of the middle English poem 'Piers Plowman' by William Langland. I first studied that in 1981 in Professor R.W. Hanning '58, GSAS'64's English class. I remain ever grateful to mother Columbia and the faculty."

"Here in Los Angeles, I am in constant contact with **Simon Black**, **Charlie Hess** and **P.J. Pesce**.

Wishing the best to all classmates, with memories of the Marlin Cafe and other spots from back in the day. And a perpetual note of affection for the other members of our group of friends who are all in contact and bound together: **Darius Sollohub**, **Gideon Besson**, Lou Tilmont and David Rosenberg Korish. Thanks for keeping the spirit of our class alive."

Mark Darlington SEAS'84: "I recently moved from Redding, Conn., to Aiken, S.C., because Aiken is heaven for horses, and my wife owns three. I've been running an IT consulting firm from home for 19 years, so it doesn't really matter where I work. We live about three minutes from 12 beautiful Har-Tru tennis courts, and I can play year-round here. I've also been practicing

Bikram yoga for six years, and it's done wonders for my strength and flexibility. Due to Covid-19, my sons have decided to take a year off from college, and now work at a North Haven, Conn., Amazon warehouse. We were looking forward to their visiting South Carolina for Thanksgiving. I've recently been in touch with **Bob Gamiel**, **Bruce Robertson**, **Rob Kahn**, **Paul Saputo**, **Marty Avallone**, **Simon Hall**, **Joe Harary** and **Mike Melkonian** '84."

Ramon Parsons: "I've been in touch with many from the class via Zoom: **Dan Jaffe**, **David Hershey-Webb**, **Liz Rich** BC'83, **Ted Kesler**, **Marty Shore**, **Chris Wood**, **Maddy Schwartzman** BC'83 and **Roger Miller**. All doing well. Connie Vasilas BC'83 and I have been married for 33 years and have three adult children. I'm an Icahn Scholar and the Ward-Coleman Chair in Cancer Research at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, where I also am director of the Tisch Cancer Institute, an NCI-designated cancer center, and chair of the Department of Oncological Sciences. I have also had the pleasure to run a research laboratory for more than 25 years focused on cancer genetics and molecular biology."

I am sad to report the passing of **George Poon**. **Ken Chin** shared his obituary; you can read it online: bit.ly/3lqWMUL.

We should all be proud of Columbia's recent number 3 ranking in *U.S. News & World Report*, ahead of Yale.

Stay safe and carpe diem!

1984

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Strange times, indeed, but very happy to have heard from a number of classmates, with nothing but good health to report — thankfully! Coincidentally, some of those closest to me at Columbia — literally, by proximity during those days, and by friendship since — all checked in right away. Always great hearing from Carman suitemate **Ronald Thompson**, two-year Hamilton next door neighbor **Adam Belanoff** and Fumald floormate **Peter Schmidt**. But then, quite out of the blue, as if emerging from the pool where we all had to take the swim

test, breast stroke champion **Brian Clew** did a deep dive into my previous column and sent a shoutout to **Jim Weinstein**.

Which leads me to a new feature in our column, starting now: "Classmate Spotlight!"

We all know **Brian Clew** as one of our class's stellar athletes, described in a March 23, 1983, *Spec* article as "a school record holder in the 100-yard and 200-yard breast stroke events ... United States Championships qualifier, an Eastern Seaboard finalist, and a 'quiet team leader' according to Lions swimming coach Don Galluzzi."

Side note: Yours truly masochistically chose to take a lap swimming gym class with the great Galluzzi: never worked out harder in my life!

Not only was Brian co-captain and a member of the swim team that won its first league title in 1984, but he also was, and is, the member of a very special club, one that I'll call "True Blue."

One of a handful of CC'84 grads who were legacies, Brian's family's dedication to Columbia is remarkable. Starting with grandfather **Louis V. Clew**, a Teachers College grad; followed by uncle **Richard L. Clew** '53; father, **Robert D. Clew** '56; brother **Richard C. Clew** '87; and including wife, **Alison Clew** (née Levy) SEAS'83.

These days, Brian spends a little less time in the pool, and more in the sun, as an executive with MetroWest Solar in Framingham, Mass.

Roar, Brian, Roar!

It was Senior Week, and this great talent entertained us, sitting under a tree, just across from St. Paul's Chapel, on — if memory serves — the Friday before Class Day, at around noon. It was a warm, sunny May day, and, as this musician reminded me, he was joined by two other amazing jazz artists: **Billy Higgins** on drums and **Charlie Haden** on bass. Who was it? None other than jazz guitar great **Pat Metheny**.

Anyone else remember Senior Week events? Please advise and I will revisit them in our next column.

In other news, **Mark Binder** was on a book and storytelling tour in Vienna, London and Copenhagen for *The Misadventures of Rabbi Kibitz* and *Mrs. Chaipul* when the pandemic sent everyone home. He spent last summer producing SUMMER 2020, the world's first "live concert

audiobook" (on Audible), and last fall released his debut novel, *The Groston Rules*. Recently, his stepson had Covid-19; he's fully recovered, and Mark wants you to know that it is possible to have an infected person be in a house without spreading it to everyone else.

Good to hear, but stay vigilant!

Hoping to hear a lot more from you soon.

1985

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Hope everyone continues to stay well and safe during these challenging times. Please keep your updates coming, as it can help to provide some constancy and perspective for everyone.

Greg Jarrin has moved to Whiteriver, Ariz., on the White Mountain Apache Nation. "I am the first full-time general surgeon to work at the Whiteriver Indian Hospital. My wife was here as a nurse practitioner in the ER for a bit before I arrived. I delayed my move from the Winslow Indian Healthcare Center, as our youngest daughter was in her senior year at Winslow Township H.S. We are proud to say she was co-valedictorian. I have worked nationally in the Indian Health Service as the chief clinical consultant for surgery for five years. I have coordinated the planning for our national IHS surgeons conference every year for the past 18 years. Unfortunately, our conference in Anchorage was canceled last year due to the pandemic. We hope to have it this year, June 4–6."

"Two of our four children have graduated from college. Our oldest, **Julian**, finished Arizona State University last May with a B.A. in theater light design. He was working for the Maricopa County Elections Department until November and next will start a job in theater in a school district in Phoenix. **Luke** graduated from Humboldt State University in Arcata, Calif., in May 2019 with a B.A. in wildlife conservation. He has worked for the Arizona Conservation Corps on trail maintenance in state and federal parks, in Alaska on a salmon boat for six weeks and most recently in St. Louis with AmeriCorps. Our



two daughters are still in college. Felicia is a senior at Santa Clara University, and Chloe is a first-year at Saint Mary's College of California in Moraga. Felicia is pursuing political science and English as a dual major. Chloe plans to major in biochemistry with hopes of going to medical school.

"My wife, Vanessa, and I are thankful for our opportunities in life, the health and achievements of our children, and our continuing ability to work in the Indian Health Service.

"The best to classmates. Go Lions! Go Class of 1985! Sad to see the Marching Band dissolve. Long live the Columbia University Marching Band!"

Louis Kanganis's daughter, Alisa, was set to join the Williams College Class of 2024, but opted to defer due to Covid-19. She'll also be a member of its track team, which is competitive at the NCAA Division III level. Earlier this year Louis joined Miyoko's Kitchen, one of the leading producers of vegan cheese and dairy products, as its president.

Thanks to **Heather Paxton** for responding to some of the questions posed by my email and our Zoom reunion call last year. She says she loved her time at Columbia, but ... "Big regret: I considered getting a master's in library science from Columbia, but I decided against it. My recollection is that it would have required only an extra year of study. At the time, I wanted a paycheck and the advantages of more 'real-world' experience. I also was aware that computers were changing everything. I didn't want to get the degree, and then find that the systems I learned would be obsolete in a few years. What Heather of 2020 would tell Heather of 1985: 'Get the degree. Then you'll have two degrees from Columbia, and you'll have the credentials to work as a professional librarian. As for the computer systems, you'll still be learning new ones in your 50s, as unimaginable as that may seem.'"

Hope you are able to engage with Columbia online. I viewed several webinars, which were very thoughtful. Also, the Alumni Representative Committee will be doing all admissions interviewing remotely for the Class of 2025, so if you ever wanted to interview, but didn't have the wherewithal to get to an appropriate interview place, it has never been

easier ... and it just becomes another Zoom meeting.

Finally, on a personal note, please see the photo in the "Just Married!" section featuring none other than my son Isaac '14, who married his longtime sweetheart, Kara Krakower BC'14, on the Low Steps on September 12, the 10th anniversary of the day that they met at Columbia. Covid-19 forced them to postpone their original plans, but in reality, the perfect setting combined with perfect weather led to a perfect day. Solomon Hoffman '14 officiated (his first marriage ceremony; he is studying to be a rabbi, and will be a great one). We used the Kiddush cup given to Isaac at his bris by Eddy Friedfeld '83 and Leon Friedfeld '88. Numerous Columbia and Barnard alums joined us on Zoom, including my brother, sister-in-law, niece, nephew, Michael Ackerman '84 and Sally Freud BC'86. Feeling very blessed.

[Editor's note: CCT misattributed a note to **Jeffrey Lautin** in the Fall 2020 issue; we apologize for the error.]

1986

REUNION 2021

MAY 24-JUNE 3 (virtual)

JUNE 4-5 (in-person, conditions permitting)

Events and Programs Contact
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Greetings from Miami Beach! I decamped to my Miami apartment last July to take advantage of remote working. If you're in the Miami area, drop me a line and we'll meet for outdoor beers!

We are in need of an uplifting story, and **Chris Herbst** provided one. "After 34 years, I'm breaking my silence and finally sending in my first contribution for Class Notes. I am so very proud to report that **Denis Fitzgibbons**, my Columbia roommate and my brother-in-law of 33 years, was recently elected president of the State Bar of Arizona! I attached a great article about Denis and his family that shows his passionate commitment to serve others. It also

touches on his time at Columbia in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program and quotes our good friend and my other roommate Mike Schmidtberger '82, LAW'85." Mike chairs Sidley Austin's Executive Committee.

I thought I'd summarize the *Arizona Attorney* magazine article from July/August 2020. Denis grew up in Estherville, Iowa (pop. 7,500) as the youngest of four boys. Three became lawyers and one a doctor. By the way, the doctor-brother has 10 children, nine of whom are doctors! Their father, David Fitzgibbons Sr., moved the family from Iowa to Arizona because of his rheumatoid arthritis. They moved to Casa Grande, a diverse community halfway between Phoenix and Tucson, and surrounded by Indian tribes.

After graduating from the ASU College of Law, Denis worked at Snell & Wilmer in Phoenix. One of his colleagues there said, "Once you're a friend of his, you're a friend for life." Denis joined his father's practice, which became Fitzgibbons Law Offices. Denis works with his brothers, David and Kevin, and his brother-in-law Dan Harrington. Their sister is an attorney, too, at another firm. Denis enjoys his three-minute commute — five if he hits the red light. He and his wife, Lisa Navarro Fitzgibbons, who is a member of the Casa Grande City Council, have three daughters: Ashley, Molly and Grace. Ashley recently graduated from the ASU Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Molly is a labor and delivery nurse at St. Joseph's Hospital in Phoenix and Grace recently graduated from Loyola University with a major in psychology and a minor in women and gender studies.

Denis is the kind of guy who is still friends with the Little Brothers he mentored when he was at Columbia. His firm's motto is "Trust and integrity ... a tradition." Denis is Irish Catholic but he sounds like a mensch in the truest sense.

Congratulations, Denis, on this well-deserved honor!

Andy Ahn sent a nice update: "In an apparent effort to wander ever closer back to my hometown and alma mater, I have moved from Indianapolis to the Philadelphia region with my wife, Christina, and daughters, Isabela (13) and Abigail (11). After a time in academia as a neuroscientist and neurologist, I

have found meaningful service to my patients through the discovery and development of medicines for neurological disorders. While at Eli Lilly and Company I had various roles, but had the opportunity to help develop a medicine for an uncommon but severe condition called cluster headache, the first such medicine approved for this condition. I now work at Teva Pharmaceuticals in the Philly area, where I continue to work on developing medicines for other headache disorders. It is an interesting time to be working in pharma, being at once the immediate scapegoat for the escalating cost of healthcare (still only 10 percent of the overall cost of healthcare in this country) but still expecting that innovation for severe and urgent unmet medical needs can proceed at warp speed. (Does anyone else sense the irony of the reference to science fiction?)"

[Editor's note: As of late October, the Alumni Office is planning Columbia Reunion 2021 as virtual events Monday, May 24–Thursday, June 3, and in-person events Friday, June 4–Saturday, June 5, conditions permitting. Watch your inbox for more.]

1987

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Judy Kim has become a Florida resident! She lives in Palm Beach and invites alums traveling in the area to drop by and say hi. She also said that she had brunch with **Dora Kim Baer**. "It was so fun to talk about mutual friends and Art and Music Hum!" Judy said.

Suze Kim-Villano sent the following update: "Covid-19 aerosol spread has been tough on choirs. I had been regularly singing in four before the pandemic. Notre Dame returned to in-person this fall and I was singing in person, but in smaller choirs, distanced, outside in the football stadium, in a mask. With the cold weather, we moved indoors to connected rooms where we can sing together (which is impossible on Zoom) while we are in separate spaces!"

"Two of the Notre Dame Children's Choirs are meeting in person, again, in small groups, distanced, in masks, at the stadium gate. They have been great, and I meet by

Zoom with those singers who are quarantining or have high-risk family members. The rest of our choirs are meeting via Zoom, and the directors have learned to use Google Classroom, Flipgrid, Virtual Interactive Classrooms and Flat to teach songs and musical skills, provide social and emotional support, and build community online.

"We break frequently to allow aerosol dispersment (outside) and increased air exchanges (inside), and are doing what we can with what we have. Trying to stay safe and sing."

For more on Notre Dame's music, check out bit.ly/3pY7TY1 online.

1988

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Recently I have had reason to think back on my junior abroad at Oxford, when I decided as a young man that I didn't trust English barbers and consequently went a full year without cutting my hair. As a middle-aged man during a viral pandemic, I feel a different sort of distrust, in which I fear contracting the coronavirus in a barber shop, and have therefore grown my hair long again. It is now rangy on the sides and in the back, but sparser on top, a reminder that none of us are 20 anymore. It's also a stark reminder not to strive for an aging hipster look under normal conditions.

As the pandemic continues to consume our attention and constrict our activities, the medical doctors and specialists in our class continue

to make us hopeful and proud.

Dr. Pam Perry is an emergency medicine specialist in West Palm Beach, Fla. "I'm happily married to an incredible graphic designer, Lonnie MacPeck, and I am on year 23 of an amazing emergency medicine career," Pam reports. "I thank my lucky stars every day that I went to Columbia College! Crazy times in the world right now. Everyone pray, and above all else, stay safe!"

Dr. Eve Makoff GSAS'89 wrote from Torrance, Calif.: "I am an internal medicine and palliative care physician, and medical director of palliative care at MedZed, a telehealth company that provides longitudinal care. For fun I publish personal essays and narrative medicine reflections. I am married and have three kids, ages 15, 18 and 19."

Laura Prendergast, founder and chief technical officer of VectorGen, is pushing barriers in platform technology that can be used to prevent and cure HIV/AIDS and other viral infections. "The Street Card, a project to use IT to streamline the provision of benefits to homeless persons, is progressing nicely," she says. "We have two student teams working on the web-based application; the first tier of services (for basic needs providers) is nearly complete, and the second tier (connecting homeless clients with their medical records) is well underway."

"I am also working with a team of students from the University of Albany on a police reform project," Laura continues. "We have partnered with Jeffrey Deskovic, a prominent advocate for criminal justice reform. Additionally, I recently accepted a position as science advisor to Air Cycle Systems, a group of entrepreneurs developing a better air-purifying respirator."

"Finally, I am saddened to report the demise of my uncle, Dr. Robert A. Prendergast '53, who left a lasting legacy for the Columbia crew by painting the 'C' on the Spuyten Duyvil cliff." [Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

Also involved in the fight against HIV is David Putelo, who checked in from the Syracuse area, where he is national account director for ViiV Healthcare, a pharmaceutical company specializing in the development of therapies for HIV infection. David pledged to "reach out in the near future as the world returns to a better reality."

This is unfortunately the second column in a row in which I have had to note the death of a classmate. Refoel Pride reports, "Brian Keizer passed away on March 17, 2020, which I believe was just before his 54th birthday. Cause of death was complications arising from diabetes. He should rest in peace."

Refoel recalled, "He was a great guy and a brilliant mind, one of the most brilliant minds I've ever known. He worked for many years as a freelance writer, and also for New York's SummerStage."

"Probably the most notable episode from Brian's Columbia College career came when he was the host of a weekly blues show on WKCR and Keith Richards called in to the studio," Refoel wrote. Brian hung up on him a few times because he assumed it was a prank — anyone acquainted with Brian knew he was a huge fan of the Stones. Somehow Richards finally managed to get through to Brian and persuade him it really was him; he was a faithful listener of the show each week from his home. (Maybe on Long Island? I can't remember.) Brian set a time to go interview him for the show, which he did. That was a special moment. If you had told me then that Keith Richards would outlive Brian, I never would have believed you."

Stay in touch and stay safe, everyone.

1989

Emily Miles Terry
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As we all know, CC'89 has more than our fair share of classmates who are dedicated and involved alumni. But I wanted to acknowledge the work of Michael Behringer and his tremendous leadership as former president of the Columbia College Alumni Association. Mike's tenure (he began as president in 2017) wrapped up last July, and while I'm sure he's happy to have some time back, the CCAA will certainly miss his strong leadership and ambitious alumni-oriented endeavors. Michael and his family reside in Connecticut, where he is executive in residence at Ridgmont Equity Partners.

Thank you, Michael!

Maiken Baird is an independent documentary filmmaker who spe-

cializes in international and political affairs. Most recently she produced *Totally Under Control*, a documentary that chronicles Donald Trump and the White House's response to the coronavirus pandemic, now available on Hulu. Maiken also co-directed the documentary film *Venus and Serena* and produced *Client 9: The Rise and Fall of Eliot Spitzer*. Her list of films and documentaries is extensive and also includes *No Stone Unturned*, the story of the 1994 Loughinisland massacre in Northern Ireland; *Elián*, which focuses on Elián Gonzales as an adult and the story that followed his removal from the United States to Cuba, as well as the documentary *City of Ghosts*, which tells the story of ISIS fighters in the city of Raqqa during the fall of the attempted caliphate. In 2018 Maiken was an executive producer for the documentary *Divide and Conquer: The Story of Roger Ailes*, and in 2019 she was an executive producer for the documentary *Mystify: Michael Hutchence*. Maiken lives in New York City with her family.

Patrick Nolan sent me a tip that Claudio Saunt, a professor of history at the University of Georgia, authored a highly acclaimed book, *Unworthy Republic: The Dispossession of Native Americans and the Road to Indian Territory*, earlier this year. *Unworthy Republic* is a "masterful" and "unsettling history" of the forced migration of Native Americans across the Mississippi River in the 1830s and the state-sponsored theft of their lands. Claudio's fourth book, it is a finalist for the 2020 National Book Award for Nonfiction, was Shortlisted for the 2020 Cundill History Prize and was on the *Publishers Weekly* "Top 10" Best Books of 2020 list.

Dr. Tony Vinals writes: "Enjoyed some tennis in the fall. Despite all the social distancing, tennis is a great sport that I am enjoying with my daughters Matilde and Theresa, both born at the Columbia University Medical Center-NewYork Presbyterian Hospital, and who both had the joy of studying at Columbia last summer in a joint Sotheby's/art history department program."

Tony added that his "wife received also her medical training at Columbia, so the Columbia tradition runs deep in our family."

Tony attended the Yale School of Medicine and trained in ophthal-

Stay in
Touch



Let us know if you have a new postal or email address, a new phone number or even a new name:
college.columbia.edu/alumni/connect



mology at Harvard. Fourteen years ago, after working for several years in Manhattan, he and his family moved to Germany. "We are located outside of Frankfurt in a lovely wine-growing area near the Rhine River," Tony writes. "My wife and I are both eye surgeons, and partners in one of the most established practices in our state. We also had the good fortune of opening our eye clinic in January 2020."

And lastly, a bit of good news: This column is going to be written by CC'89 guest columnists this year. Please let me know if you're interested. You don't have to be obligated to do the column for the rest of your life, but please reach out to me if you'd like to write one. You will have several months' lead time, and it's a great excuse to reach out to classmates and share what you've been up to.

1990

Rachel Cowan Jacobs
younggrache@hotmail.com

When I submitted my Fall 2020 column, (most of) the United States was four months into the stay-at-home/shutdown stage of Covid-19. As I write today, we're more than seven months in and when you read this, it'll be the heart of winter. Who knows what our country will look like when this column is published? I just hope it's a whole lot healthier, and not just in a coronavirus context. Here's some news from our classmates.

Beth Kissileff has co-edited an anthology about the Pittsburgh Tree of Life synagogue shooting, which was published in October. Her daughter followed in her footsteps to Penn for a graduate degree. Beth reports she has no Columbians ... yet.

Michael Kinstlick is pandemic-ing-in-place in Berkeley while whiskey company Coppersea is still going strong (I bet it is!) in New York. His son is enjoying his junior year at the University of Chicago.

Bob Giannasca, Liz Libow Poston, Claudine Wolas Shiva, Lucia Bozzola, Margaret Flynn Robison and Melissa Steinman (née Landau) got together to wish Laura Schiele Robinson a happy birthday via Zoom in October. It took an extra week or two past her birthday to actually schedule the call, and it

wasn't really the reunion they would've liked, but they said it was nice to see everybody's faces and catch up!

You're never too old to be a Fulbright Scholar. Aili Bresnahan (née Webber) was awarded a Fulbright and heads to London this winter for seven months. An associate professor of philosophy of philosophy at the University of Dayton in Ohio, Aili's primary areas of research are the philosophy of dance, performance, aesthetics, culture and law. Read about her on the Fulbright Commission's U.K. website: bit.ly/3pmVgW9.

Marian Wright reports, "My family recently acquired a 170-acre high country ranch near Kremmling, Colo., where we have an off-grid cabin and plan to sustainably raise crops and beef for the local market. We will continue to live in Rye, N.Y., while our younger children (Rhodes, 14, and Wyatt, 16) finish high school. Our oldest, Cole (19) is a sophomore at Colgate. For a few years now, I have been on the junior board at Stone Barns Center for Food & Agriculture in Pocantico Hills, N.Y. Stone Barns, with its associate restaurants, both called Blue Hill, is committed to the development and promulgation of sustainable food production. Its nonprofit farm and educational center are adjacent to the Rockefeller State Park Preserve."

Jonathan Earle, Erika Schroter Olinger and their families have been spending time together during the pandemic in New Orleans, either by the pool at Jonathan's pied-à-terre in the lower French Quarter or at Erika's lovely home Uptown. They met up again — by chance! — at a party after an art opening at Erika's hip Magazine Street Cole Pratt Gallery, where her husband, Jude, "introduced" them. Both Erika and Jonathan joined Phi Epsilon Pi, a coeducational local fraternity, during their freshman year at Columbia.

Finally, Robin Zornberg Wald SEAS'90 invited Laura Shaw Frank, Judy Shampianier and me to join her team for a Zoom trivia game that SEAS organized during Homecoming festivities in October. The good news is that we did not come in last. The better news is that we knew stuff! The disappointing news is that we were the only people playing from 1990. Oh, well. I hope the rest of you participated in some other Homecoming events, seeing

as how Zoom makes it easy to get places nowadays.

Best wishes and good health to all, and please stay in touch.

1991

REUNION 2021

MAY 24–JUNE 3 (virtual)

JUNE 4–5 (in-person, conditions permitting)

Events and Programs Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact
ccfund@columbia.edu

Heather E.G. Brownlie
heatherhj@yahoo.com

Hi everyone! I am Heather E.G. Brownlie, your new class correspondent, having taken over from my Carman 8 floormate Margie Kim, who did such an amazing job all these years — thank you, Margie! I look forward to keeping up with everyone's activities and being the conduit for your updates and news to make it into these pages. So please, send me your information, and let's keep this column vibrant and active!

As I write this, plans are underway for our 30th reunion celebration, scheduled to take place virtually in late May and possibly in person in early June, conditions permitting. Already, I have very much enjoyed working with the CC'91 Reunion Committee, catching up with old friends and making new ones! Cheers to 30 years!

Eugenia Gonzalez Centeno and Miguel Centeno write, "We are doing well in Queens with our 3-year-old, Mateo."

After almost 18 years at Boies Schiller & Flexner, Bob Cooper joined King & Spalding as a partner in Washington, D.C., last July. Bob focuses his practice on antitrust litigation, governmental investigations and counseling global companies on competition-related issues.

Jacqueline Harounian practices family law as a partner in the Great Neck, N.Y., firm of Wisselman, Harounian & Associates. She was recently named a *New York Law Journal* "Top Woman in Law 2020," and her firm was named a *U.S. News & World Report* Top Tier Firm 2020.

Darow Han is a senior consultant and architect for IBM Security specializing in network and cloud

security. He lives in Los Angeles and has recorded several albums with his band DMZ//38.

Jack Hiday has been at Alphabet (parent company of Google) for five years and is leading a group focused on the nexus of Physics & AI technologies. His book, *Quantum Computing: An Applied Approach*, was published in October 2019 and is in its fourth printing. "I often think of our days in small seminars in the Core and have drawn on that experience for the many classes I teach," Jack says.

Nancy López Ph.D. is a professor of sociology at the University of New Mexico. Nancy co-founded and still directs the Institute for Study of "Race" & Social Justice, and she is the founding coordinator of the New Mexico Statewide Race, Gender, Class Data Policy Consortium (race.unm.edu). Nancy also is associate VP for the Division for Equity and Inclusion and co-chairs the Education Committee of the New Mexico governor's Council for Racial Justice. Her scholarship and teaching are guided by the insights of intersectionality — the simultaneity of tribal status/settler colonialism race/structural racism, gender/heteropatriarchy, class/capitalism, ethnicity/nativism and sexuality/heterosexism as systems of oppression/resistance across a variety of social outcomes (education, health, employment, wealth and housing)



Miguel Centeno '91 and Eugenia Gonzalez Centeno '91 are doing well in Queens, N.Y., with their son, Mateo (3).

and the importance of developing contextualized solutions that advance justice. Her books include *Hopeful Girls, Troubled Boys: Race and Gender Disparity in Urban Education* (2002) and *Mapping "Race": Critical Approaches to Health Disparities Research* (2013). She co-edited a special issue of the *Race, Ethnicity and Education Journal* on Quantitative Methods and Critical Race Theory.

Nancy is also known for developing the concept of "street race." She has been recognized for her contributions to engaged scholarship through the American Sociological Association's Section on for Sociological Practice and Public Sociology's William Foote Whyte Distinguished Career Award. Her current research includes a mixed method study in three research practice partnerships that examines the role of ethnic studies curriculum and culturally relevant pedagogy in reducing complex intersectional inequalities in high school. Nancy has served on more than 70 Ph.D./M.A. committees and has given more than 130 seminars at national conferences, invited lectures and community gatherings.

Connie McVey writes: "**Michael Socolow** and I live in beautiful Maine with our boys, Simon (17) and Geo (15). I've been practicing psychotherapy for 25 years now, specializing in trauma. Work has never been busier ... I am president of the Maine chapter of CISV International, which focuses on youth development, global friendship and peace education. Prior to Covid-19, I played on an ice hockey team and was an avid Friday night tango dancer (I miss dancing terribly!); though during Covid, I've been doing a lot of community veggie gardening, standup paddleboarding, hiking, biking and open water swimming, while managing two teen boys.

"Mike is director of the University of Maine's Clement and Lucy McGillicuddy Humanities Center and writes on topics like fake news, politics and more. He was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to research at the News and Media Research Centre at the University of Canberra in Australia in 2019, so we lived there for six months and enrolled our boys in Australian schools. We had amazing experiences, with side trips to the Great Barrier Reef, Daintree Rainforest, New Zealand, Japan and Korea, where Mike's sister, Elisabeth

Socolow '89, was working for the State Department. Luckily, we left Australia prior to the devastating fires.

"I wish I could see you all at our next reunion. I've loved attending previous ones, with my ol' teammates **Julie Black, Iris Kurman, Ani Mekhjian, Tara Kreidman** and more, but who knows if that will be possible due to Covid-19. Stay healthy and safe, everyone!

Susannah "Susie" Wood joined the State Department as a Foreign Service officer in 2012. Since then, she has been posted to U.S. embassies in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; and Ankara, Turkey; and is currently living in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Susie plans to move back to Washington, D.C., this summer for a domestic tour. She is married to Alexander Gavashelishvili and has two daughters, Sophia (15) and Laura (11).

1992

Olivier Knox
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Hello, classmates and friends! Send me your life updates — new job, new family and so on. I guarantee someone will be delighted to hear from you via the column.

1993

Betsy Gomperz
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No news to share this time! Please reach out to me at the email above or via the CCT Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Classmates would love to hear from and about you. Share current news, and/or stories from days past, and I will publish it in a future issue. Wishing you a healthy, happy and safe New Year.

1994

Leyla Kokmen
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Hello, Class of 1994! Hope you are all hanging in there! Happy to report some updates sent in by **Shawn Landres**, who notes, "Like so many others, we are navigating these multiple crises as best we can

and looking for the good where we can find it."

Shawn reports that 36 years after he and **Michael Jeon** started seventh grade together, they now are parents of seventh-graders in the same Class of 2026, "even though the girls, who share one government course (as I think Mike and I did), haven't yet met in person."

Last spring, Shawn designed and piloted a public-sector innovation course, and Caralyn Spector BC'94 was among the experienced mid-career professionals from across the country who participated. As a Los Angeles County and Santa Monica city commissioner — and now chair of the Santa Monica Planning Commission — Shawn has also been hard at work to plan and coordinate an array of local government efforts related to procurement and land-use streamlining, local hiring and philanthropic partnerships, each through an equity lens.

He adds, "Lastly, a shameless plug (thanks to **Mason Kirby** for his leadership on this) for The Columbia College Class of 1994 Scholarship Fund. Support for the fund counts toward annual recogni-

Shawn Landres '94 and Michael Jeon '94 started seventh grade together, and now they are both parents of seventh-graders (Class of 2026?).

tions, and because it's a financial aid endowment, it's a gift that literally keeps on giving." Go to givenow.columbia.edu, and search using the fund's name.

Thanks to Shawn for sending the updates! Looking forward to hearing from more of you soon! Take care, and be well.

1995

Janet Lorin
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Please reach out with your news via the email above or the CCT Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Classmates would love to hear from and about you! Wishing you a safe and healthy New Year.

1996

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Ana Salper
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Dear classmates, thanks to many of my fellow 25th Reunion Committee members, I have a nice amount of news to report this time around. As I write this, we are on the cusp of the presidential election (only five days away). It will be old news by the time of publication of this issue, but I would be remiss if I did not mention how much I am fervently hoping that 2021 ushers in a new era of positivity, unity and peace in this country.

Our 25th reunion is upon us (See what I did there? Two mentions before I even get to the notes.), and

although it will be different this year because of Covid-19 restrictions, I encourage all of you to participate in the scheduled events and reunite with CC'96 classmates. Can you believe it has been 25 years since we graduated? It truly feels like a lifetime ago, which is why reconnecting now is so important.

Now on to the notes. **Rose Kob** is a lawyer at a nonprofit and lives in Brooklyn with her husband, Joe, and their two teenagers. She writes that she is delighted to live around the corner from her Carman 11 floor-mate **Noa Heyman**. Rose often sees Noa out for her morning run when she picks up her newspaper from the stoop. Rose is also co-chair of the board of Community Impact at Columbia, which had its first virtual gala this past October. Rose's fellow CI board member **Moha Desai** was



there, as well as other CC'96ers, including **Pete Freeman** and **Elizabeth Yuan** (who also works with us on the Reunion Committee). Check out the CI website to learn more: communityimpact.columbia.edu.

Stefanie Lally-Ardrey SIPA'01 writes that she is in her 17th year as underwriting counsel with an international title insurance company. She and her husband have two high schoolers in Connecticut and, in a fit of quarantine-induced enthusiasm, recently added a Cocker Spaniel to their brood. Stefanie got together with **Nina Russakoff** in NYC just before the pandemic hit when they took their respective goddaughters to see a Broadway musical and for afternoon tea in celebration of a milestone birthday. Stefanie keeps in touch virtually with **Janet Kilian** (my Carman 5 roommate!), an economist for the Department of Defense's United States Indo-Pacific Command in Hawaii, and enjoys debating world politics and the relative cuteness of their babies: Janet's toddler and Stefanie's puppy. Stefanie hopes that all classmates are staying safe and well during these strange times.

Carter Burwell is counselor to the secretary for terrorism and financial intelligence at the U.S. Department of Treasury.

Michael Lee is a corporate lawyer at Ropes & Gray in Boston. He lives in Newton, Mass. (just outside Boston), with his wife, Brigitte, daughter, Noelle (12), and kitten, beta fish and frog. Michael looks forward to connecting with other alums in the area and reconnecting with our class at our 25th reunion.

Mila Tuttle (née Atmosudirdjo) SIPA'05 started a podcast on civic engagement, *Future Hindsight*. She writes: "It's been an eye-opening journey that feels like I'm back in school, reading so much nonfiction, and learning what's possible for our democracy. Tune in! Still living in Manhattan, I have become super involved with Columbia and I'm really enjoying it."

Mila, who was the coxswain on crew, is in touch with fellow crew members **Eileen Barish** (rower), **Catherine Reibman Williams** '95 (rower), **Kathryn Hudacek Harlow** '94 (rower) and of course former Democratic presidential candidate **Beto O'Rourke** '95 (also a rower!). Mila has two sons, ages 16 (11th grade) and 13 (eighth grade).

Lisa Courtney LAW'99 lives with her husband, Eduardo, and their two children in Morningside Heights. She is statewide coordinator of alternative dispute resolution for the New York State Unified Court System, working to promote the growth of mediation throughout NYS. Lisa oversees settlement skills and training programs for judges and non-judicial court staff, and leads the Alternate Dispute Resolution Committee of the New York Women's Bar Association. Lisa returns to campus each year to speak to students at the Law School about mediation and to coach law students during their intensive mediation training, along with Professor Alexandra Carter LAW'03. In addition to mediation, Lisa enjoys meditation, meeting neighborhood friends at The Hungarian Pastry Shop, and walking around the Columbia neighborhood with family and friends. Her 12-year-old daughter is a cellist who dreams of going to Columbia, and her 10-year-old son is an avid chess player eager to again ride NYC trains just for fun. Lisa loved hearing **Jodi Kantor**'s interview of Professor Ken Jackson in the fall and felt encouraged by his faith in the future of NYC.

Whitney Chiate (née Berkholtz) lives in Tiburon (Marin County), Calif., with her husband and two children, and is working on getting a master's in psychology from Harvard. I have really enjoyed spending time serving on the 25th Reunion Committee with Whitney, as well as with **Adam Beshara**, **Uchenna Acholonu**, **Britta Jacobson** (my former East Campus suitemate) and others, several of whom are featured in this column. Hope to see you all at a reunion event!

In honor of the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg LAW'59 (may she rest in power), I leave you with this:

"Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you."

— RBG

1997

Kerensa Harrell
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Dear classmates, I hope that you had a pleasant autumn and that you

have been staying in good health throughout this frightening coronavirus pandemic, which continues to ravage our planet. It is my pleasure to present the following updates from our classmates.

Sarah Bunin Benor recently published a book with Jonathan Krasner and Sharon Avni, *Hebrew Infusion: Language and Community at American Jewish Summer Camps*.

Melinda Powers recently published an edited collection, *Reclaiming Greek Drama for Diverse Audiences: An Anthology of Adaptations and Interviews*.

Doraine Burrell (née Hemchand) writes: "I have joined the board of HealthRight International. We are celebrating our 30-year anniversary. We build sustainable healthcare systems for and with marginalized communities here and abroad."

Nickolay Todorov writes: "I'm executive-producing *Swamp People* for the History channel. During the last year I executive-produced two seasons of the hit show *Swamp People: Serpent Invasion* for History, one more season of *Swamp People* and the show *The Last Cowboy* for Paramount, a documentary companion to Yellowstone. Before that I produced the last two seasons of *American Chopper* in Orange County, N.Y."

John Dean Alfone participated in Cannes Online 2020 (marchedu.com) and was accredited for the San Sebastian International Film Festival (sansebastianfestival.com) last September in Spain and the Marché International du Film Classique (mifc.fr) last October in France.

As for me, **Kerensa Harrell**, I am wrapping up this column in early October and I am thanking my lucky stars that I remain in a position where I can continue being a stay-at-home mom for my almost 4-year-old-daughter. With the pandemic continuing, I am doing my utmost to keep the two of us at home as much as possible, in an attempt to limit our exposure through social distancing. Rather than shopping at stores, I order all of our necessities to be delivered to our home, even the groceries. When on rare occasions we must go out, we are careful to wear our cloth face masks (which are matching mommy-daughter masks in pretty colors!). I am really looking forward to a vaccine, so that we can resume our social life.

On a positive note, last summer I regained my freedom and moved with my daughter to the lovely and picturesque town of Celebration, Fla. Celebration feels like a whimsical version of some towns in Connecticut, like Greenwich and Darien, but done up in a palette of Florida pastels. Living here feels like it's Easter year-round! Our home, which is right in the downtown area, is a short walking distance to the local elementary (K-8) school and also walking distance to restaurants, shops, a clubhouse, a lake, hiking trails, bicycle trails and so forth. Living in this new town is a much-needed breath of fresh air after the two-year war that I have just finished, and the three years of misery that preceded that. And now if only the pandemic would go away, life could be just peachy.

The other day I put on some traditional nursery songs for my daughter's listening enjoyment. Her immediate response was, "No, thanks. I prefer Bon Jovi." Her favorite Bon Jovi song is "Wanted Dead or Alive," which she sings at the top of her lungs. I'll end now with a few lyrics from her second-favorite Bon Jovi song, "It's My Life":

"My heart is like an open highway
"Like Frankie said
"I did it my way
"I just want to live while I'm alive
"It's my life!"

Blessings to all for the new year, please stay safe during the pandemic and do send us your updates. *In lumine Tuo videbimus lumen.*

1998

Sandie Angulo Chen
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Hello, classmates!

Shoutout to **Alejandra Montenegro Almonte**, who lives on the other side of the DMV (Delaware, Maryland, Virginia) area in Northern Virginia and continues to impress with her family's themed annual Halloween costumes. Despite the quarantine, the Almontes — Alejandra; her husband, Jorge; and their children, Javier (13) and Lucia (12) — dressed as commercial insurance agents. Alejandra is a member and vice-chair in the International

Department of the Washington, D.C., law firm Miller & Chevalier.

Send me your news at the email above or via the CCT Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note!

1999

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Greetings for 2021, CC'99! If you are interested in writing this column as the class correspondent, please send a note to cct@columbia.edu — it's a great way to keep in touch with classmates! In the meantime, share your news and updates by sending us an email or by using the CCT Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2000

Prisca Bae
pb134@columbia.edu

Please share your news with the class via the email above or the CCT Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Classmates would love to hear from and about you! Wishing you a safe and healthy New Year.

2001

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ccreunion@columbia.edu
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Jonathan Gordin
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Hi all, hope everyone is doing well — this winter certainly feels different than others. I miss seeing many of you in person like I normally do, though texting still works remarkably well when I'm basically housebound. I also miss visits to NYC and campus ... Columbia in the fall and winter is a special place indeed!

I might have mentioned that my former Furnald roommate

and Columbia Outdoor Biking Orientation Program pal **Adam Sokol** recently moved down the street from me in Los Angeles. Last summer, Adam and his wife, Bingyi, invited us to their home for a social-distanced outdoor meal. It was so lovely to see our kids playing together and to enjoy a delicious meal outdoors!

It was a delight to hear from **Mark Jackson**: "I live in Brooklyn near the Prospect Park Zoo with my wife and two daughters. We have gotten to know every square inch of Prospect Park since last spring, and now have our sights on the recently reopened Brooklyn Botanic Garden and Brooklyn Museum. When I'm not homeschooling or tidying, I am general counsel for the mixed-use development project Industry City."

Great hearing from you, Mark.

Stay well, stay healthy and keep in touch, all!

[Editor's note: As of late October, the Alumni Office is planning Columbia Reunion 2021 as virtual events Monday, May 24–Thursday, June 3, and in-person events Friday, June 4–Saturday, June 5, conditions permitting. Watch your inbox for more.]

2002

Sonia Hiradarami
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Hi, classmates. Hope you and your loved ones are safe in these unprecedented and uncertain times.

Nihal Godiwala is a pediatric critical care attending physician at Children's Hospital New Orleans and assistant professor of medicine at LSU Health Sciences Center. Last spring and summer were busy for Nihal, as he was involved in national, multi-center collaborative efforts to create diagnostic and treatment algorithms for the Covid-MISC disease that affected children. Like many of us, he was looking forward to 2020 being over and, also, for his beloved Saints to win the Super Bowl.

Ashanti Blaize-Hopkins received tenure status as an associate professor of journalism at Santa Monica College in California. Last April she gave birth to her second daughter, Sage.

Mike Mellia is creating paintings and videos while under quarantine

from his home in Southampton, N.Y. Inspired by the light and color of nature, he combines elements of painting with video compositing in a style that feels optimistic, playful and satisfying, he says. His art was recently featured at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

Dr. **Lachlan McG. Smith** and his wife welcomed their third daughter, Beatrix, last September, and soon the family of five will move back from Kentucky (Lachlan's home state) to Stony Brook, N.Y., his wife's hometown, where he accepted a job as faculty in the Department of Radiology at SUNY Stony Brook, where he went to med school.

Ishwara Glassman Chrein SIPA'03; her husband, Jason; kids, Chloe (11) and Matthew (9); and their Golden Retriever, Henry, have been quarantining in Southampton, N.Y. The kids are getting a degree in tennis, swimming and TikTok. Ishwara has been busy negotiating major sports deals as the head of sports partnerships and business development at Yahoo! Sports / Verizon Media. She has also read 40 books since quarantine started. Ishwara went back to campus a few times in 2019 to speak to students about working in sports. During normal times, the family lives live on the Upper West Side.

Joyce Anderson (née Chang) writes, "Hi, Columbia friends! I've been living in Evanston, Ill., for 10 years with my husband, Chris, three sons and pup. After retiring from the practice of law, I started working in education and youth sports. In 2019, I launched a sports tech start-up, Honest Game. We are a public benefit corporation with a mission to bring equal access to college athletics and beyond for all high school students. We build automated academic roadmaps to guide students, counselors, parents and coaches through the National Collegiate Athletic Association/ National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics eligibility process. In March 2020, Honest Game won the first Chicago Bulls Venture Competition. Looking forward to hearing from more classmates!"

Jill Santopolo '03's newest novel, *Everything After*, will be released on March 9. It follows Emily Gold, who is (mostly) happily married, lives in New York City and is a psychologist at NYU. But when a

tragic event in Emily's present too closely echoes her past, and parts of her story that she'd hoped never to share come to light, her perfect life is suddenly upturned. She's left wondering what her future holds, and if the passion for music she had in college should once again be a driving force in her life.

Jill and her husband, Andrew Claster, are currently living in Washington, D.C.

Thank you all for sharing these exciting updates, and please keep them coming! Updates, as well as pics, are welcome at soniahird@gmail.com.

2003

Michael J. Novielli
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Well, it certainly has been an intense few months politically with the recent elections, and our classmates continue to make their impact on the political landscape.

Jonathan Manes writes, "Last January we moved to Chicago, where I am an attorney at the Roderick and Solange MacArthur Justice Center at Northwestern's Pritzker School of Law. I did voting rights litigation in Wisconsin and Florida through the election, and am continuing prior work on police transparency and accountability. We're looking forward to getting to know our new city and spending time on the beaches here in a future, post-pandemic summer."

Julia Rose Kraut's first book, *Threat of Dissent: A History of Ideological Exclusion and Deportation in the United States*, was published last summer and was featured in *The New York Times*.

Sam Lee is producing a documentary podcast, *The Edge*, about the Houston Astros sign-stealing scandal.

Katori Hall is embarking on season 2 of her TV show *P-Valley*, on STARZ, and celebrating 12 Tony nominations for *Tina: The Tina Turner Musical* both as a co-producer and book writer.

Fiona Sze-Lorrain's new, fourth book of poetry, *Rain in Plural*, is featured in *Library Journal* as one of the "nine major collections by writers veteran and new." Fiona's translations of contemporary Chinese poets Yin Lichuan's *Karma* (2020) and Ye Lijun's *My Mountain*



Country (2019) also are out. Her work was shortlisted for the 2020 Derek Walcott Prize for Poetry.

Amelia Moore is an associate professor of marine affairs at the University of Rhode Island.

Don Lee was awarded Best American Bar Mentor 2020 by the Tales Spirited Awards.

2004

Jaydip Mahida
jmahida@gmail.com

Hello, Class of '04. At the time of writing this column, the march through 2020 continues and we are a week away from the presidential election.

I recently had the opportunity to catch up with my wrestling teammate **Daniel Green**, and we reminisced about some of the more colorful moments of seasons past. Daniel is doing well in Oklahoma and encourages folks to reach out.

Sophie Beal recently published the book *The Art of Brasília: 2000–2019: New Directions in Latino American Cultures* and moved to beautiful Bryn Mawr, in Minneapolis, with her husband, Francis Shen, and children, Gabriel (8) and Simone (6).

Danielle Evans's book, *The Office of Historical Corrections*, came out in November. Danielle is back on the East Coast now, in Baltimore, where a few years ago she joined the faculty at The Johns Hopkins University.

Alex Young is in his fourth year on the faculty at Barrett, The Honors College at Arizona State.

He and his wife, Katie, welcomed their first child, Zella Genevieve, in December 2019.

Shira Schoenberg JRN'06 is a reporter with CommonWealth magazine, an online publication that covers Massachusetts government and politics.

Jessica Lee Schenk married Keith Rudofsky on October 19 in Fort Lauderdale.

Just prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, **Andrew Lorber** and his wife, Josephine, welcomed their son, Ander Jerome, to the world. His middle name is in honor of Andrew's grandfather Jerome Lorber '38, LAW'48. Andrew writes, "Despite the challenges of quarantine, we have been fortunate to spend so much time with him. I have returned to the commercial real estate world as a principal at Arcan Capital, where we acquire and manage multifamily properties throughout the Southeast. If any CC alums are in Atlanta, I'd love to connect!"

That's all for this issue. Please continue to send updates, as we want to hear from as many folks as possible. Career and family updates are always fun, but please reach out to share about trips you might take, events you look forward to, or even interesting books or shows you have come across. You can send updates either via the email at the top of the column or via the CCT Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2005

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Happy New Year, Class of 2005! On September 15, **Shelley Diaz Vale** began her new role at *School Library Journal* as reviews editor.

Great job, Shelly!

Ifeolu Babatunde Sered and her husband, Barak, welcomed their first child, Solomon Abiola, on January 24, 2020. Ifeolu works at LinkedIn and lives in Brooklyn with her family.

Congrats, Ifeolu!

Big news from **John deBary**, who writes: "I was so saddened to see no updates in the Fall 2020 issue that I was inspired to share an update for the first time. Which is just as well, because 2020 has prob-

ably been for me one of the most eventful years yet.

"After working in NYC bars and restaurants for more than 10 years, my first book was published, the cocktail book *Drink What You Want: The Subjective Guide to Making Objectively Delicious Cocktails*.

"Also, I developed Proteau, a line of ready-to-drink, zero-proof (aka non-alcoholic) botanical drinks, which launched last year.

"And finally, the nonprofit I co-founded in 2018, Restaurant Workers' Community Foundation, started a Covid-19 Relief Fund and was able to raise (to date) more than \$7 million for direct financial assistance to restaurant workers in crisis, grants to relief organizations and a zero-interest loan program to support small businesses."

Fantastic news, John! [Editor's note: See "Bookshelf" for more on deBary and his book.]

Classmates would love to hear from you, too. Send a note to the email at the top of the column or via the CCT Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2006

REUNION 2021
MAY 24–JUNE 3 (virtual)
JUNE 4–5 (in-person, conditions permitting)
Events and Programs Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu
Development Contact
ccfund@columbia.edu

Andrew Stinger
andrew.stinger@gmail.com

Grace Parra Janney married Niall Janney in a small, socially distant civil ceremony in Los Angeles at the beginning of October. Grace is a writer and co-producer on Hulu's *Solar Opposites*, and co-host of the Crooked Media podcast *Hysteria*. [Editor's note: See "Just Married!"]

Daniel L. Harlow, an assistant professor of physics at MIT, has been awarded a Packard Fellowship in Science and Engineering, given to early-career scientists and engineers as they pursue their research.

Victoria Baranetsky JRN'07 is general counsel at Reveal from The Center for Investigative Reporting,

where she represents newsroom journalists and sues the government under the Freedom of Information Act (among other things). While surviving the wildfires nearby, Victoria shares a haiku with us from Oakland, Calif.:

"Pandemic rages.
 "Country awry. Persevere;
 "We now adults, here!"

[Editor's note: As of late October, the Alumni Office is planning Columbia Reunion 2021 as virtual events Monday, May 24–Thursday, June 3, and in-person events Friday, June 4–Saturday, June 5, conditions permitting. Watch your inbox for more.]

2007

David D. Chait
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I continue to wish everyone in the Class of 2007 good health and all my best during this challenging time. Amidst everything, I hope these updates from our classmates are uplifting.

Marc Tracy and his wife, Amanda Hess, had their first child, a son named Elliott Stone Tracy, on September 25.

Christin Alvarez (née Mone) and **Giovanni Alvarez** welcomed their daughter, Graciela Delfina, into the world on September 30. "Big brother Benicio is excited to have someone to rumble and roar with him every day," they share.

James Mahon shares, "Jennifer Joyce and I became engaged last July 27 after I proposed on the deck of a private sailboat in New York Harbor. I work at Deloitte in New York City and Jennifer works at Columbia. We look forward to more joyful memories in the city together!"

Eric Bondarsky writes, "To celebrate Earth's 35th revolution around the sun since **Jeffrey Feder SEAS'07**, **SEAS'08's** birth, **Daniel Simhaee**, **Evan Schutzman**, **Bryan Lipsky GS'05** and I enjoyed some hallowed fried chicken in Central Park."

Dustin Byington shares, "I am a 3x Fintech Entrepreneur, and my passion lies at the intersection of finance and startups. To that end I co-founded and am the CEO of the startup TWO12 ('two twelve').



Contact CCT

Update your address, email or phone; submit a Class Note, new book, photo, obituary or Letter to the Editor; or send us an email. Click "Contact Us" at college.columbia.edu/cct.

We have built an easy-to-use, full-featured and affordable cap table management solution for early-stage startups and funds.

"We handle all the fundraising math, even for your future rounds of financing, so you can easily determine how much of the company you own today as well as after any notes convert in your next priced round. I use this tool myself to figure out when to raise and how much.

"Feel free to go to two12.co, connect with me on LinkedIn or email me at dustin@two12.co to learn more."

2008

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Greetings for 2021, Class of 2008! Wishing you all the best in the New Year. Thanks to those who wrote in!

Liz Grefrath hunkered down in her two-bedroom Crown Heights co-op with her kids, Ernie (7) and Warren (2), and her writer husband, Josh, during the spring of our discontent 2020. She decamped for a month to Black Mountain, N.C., to escape New York for a breather, and took a leave of absence from her longtime position at the National ACLU to participate in Weil, Gotshal & Manges's summer associate program. Liz plans to join the law firm this fall, after her long-awaited graduation from Brooklyn Law School, where she has been studying part time since the election of our autocrat. She writes, "If you are still

hanging around Brooklyn when you read this, seriously, hit me up for a socially distanced walk, coffee, lunch, whatever. I am working from home until at least April and would love to catch up with other nearby CCers. I'm on the Facebook and Twitter, but only so I can doomscroll."

Rachel Belt works at Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance in Geneva that has been responding to the Covid-19 crisis across eligible countries to ensure that immunization services are maintained. Gavi is also coordinating the COVAX Facility, a global risk-sharing mechanism that aims to accelerate the development and manufacture of Covid vaccines, and to guarantee fair and equitable access for every country.

Exciting news from **Scott Hughes**: "My wife and I recently welcomed our second child, Sophia, in early September. She joins brother Sam (2.5) and has the distinction of being born in the middle of a pandemic, which presumably will make for a cool story one day. We live in Washington, D.C., and despite our generation's propensity for career switching, I recently finished my 10th year at The Carlyle Group, investing in industrial and transportation companies."

Max Bulinski has been reimagining cooperative storytelling and role-playing from the ground up, embracing the digital age. His startup is in the development of its first product, Saga Experience — a virtual cooperative storytelling environment. Feel free to reach out, or to check it out at epic-epoch.com.

Classmates would love to hear from you, too. Send a note to the email at the top of the column or via the CCT Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2009

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

[Editor's note: CCT thanks **Chantee Dempsey** for her almost two years of service as class correspondent. The following is her last column. If you are interested in being the next CC'09 class correspondent, please send a note to cct@columbia.edu. And keep sending updates, to that same email address!]

On August 15, **Madeleine Boucher** and Lane Sell GS'09 welcomed their first child, Harry Boucher Sell. The family is happily settling into their new-normal quiet life in Brooklyn. Shoestring Press, the print shop and art space they run, is chugging along through the lockdown, smaller but mighty and still serving a growing community of artists.

Valentina Castillo Hall and her husband, Frederick Hall, welcomed their daughter, Clara Valentina Hall, on September 23 in Washington, D.C. They are learning a lot about babies and loving her.

Stephanie Chou has continued composing music, which you can read about in CCT Online's "Talking Points": college.columbia.edu/cct/latest/talking-points. She also started collaborations, including composing and recording a song

of the three-day celebration, and on August 16, they were legally wed. In June, they welcomed their first child, daughter Indrina Khanna. Read all about their exciting 2020 in *The New York Times*: nyti.ms/33gOms9.

2010

Julia Feldberg Klein
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Morgan Parker's *Magical Negro* won the 2019 National Book Critics Circle Award in Poetry. Out of seven categories, Morgan is one of four Black women winners this year, including Saidiya Hartman, who recently became Columbia's first Black professor to hold the title of University Professor. (Just a dope tidbit.) *Magical Negro* also won the

Rachel Belt '08 works at Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance in Geneva that has been responding to the Covid-19 crisis to ensure that immunization services are maintained.

with lyricist collaborator/mathematician David Keyes (adjunct professor and former Fu Foundation Chair Professor in Applied Physics and Applied Mathematics; currently director of the Extreme Computing Center at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology), which is dedicated to the legacy of Ruth Bader Ginsburg LAW'59. The song, "Millennial Woman" (millennial-woman.com), is a call to unify women and men around gender-blind equality of opportunity. It celebrates the emergence of women in positions of visibility and influence, despite the deterrents to be overcome, and inspires others to follow. Stephanie took a senior research seminar with David in 2008–09. Columbia connection coming full circle!

Shira Burton and her husband, Jonas Spektor, welcomed their son, Ira William Spektor, on June 17. They can't wait to introduce him to her far-flung Columbia friends when traveling feels safer!

Dr. **Chloe Ciccariello** married Dr. Krishn Khanna SEAS'10. On February 16, 2020, they took part in a celebration ceremony, one day

2019 California Book Awards Gold Metal for Poetry. Morgan's novel, *Who Put This Song On?*, received a nomination in the Young Adult category. She's working on the novel's film adaptation. Morgan's next book, in progress, is a work of nonfiction. She says, "It was so great to see familiar faces and catch up with some of you along my book tours! Thanks for all your generous support and love."

Chris Yim shares, "I have formed a pod here in California with my bestie/BFF Varun Gulati SEAS'10, who has asked that people pronounce his name correctly. After 12 years of calling my friend the way that a first-grade teacher told him to because she said it would be easier for white people to pronounce, I'm working on it. Also in the pod is Varun's wife, Abi, and Melanie Habwe '08. I find joy in outdoor fitness classes with Melanie as my workout buddy, walks around Oakland looking at the abundance of wildlife, my morning coffee ritual, journaling and nurturing friendships.

"I have been asking myself how I feel. Turns out that when I can be honest, I can better communicate what's going on inside of me. This

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is helpful for those around me and an important key to developing intimacy with others. Brené Brown, Ezra Klein, Michelle Obama, my relationships, therapy and the work that I am doing cultivating my craft as an actor have served as great sources of inspiration during this challenging time. I read headlines about the disarray of the world, and I get discouraged about humanity. I often feel isolated, wondering how I can shift the paradigms inside of me that have been planted there over thousands of years of inequity, and I get down on myself. I realized that I have been holding on to narratives about who I am that aren't serving me, and it's taken me a while to see that so much of the way that I engage with the world, and myself, is informed by these stilted stories.

"I started an indie film house this year, meaning, I posted on social media that this is something on which I am working. I decided to create this production company because I see storytelling as a form of healing and transformation. I have come to see that the stories I tell myself about who I am, my relationship with others, and society inform and dictate how I relate to these entities.

"The focus is to amplify and tell BIPOC stories and uplift BIPOC artists. As an artist, I am also investing in the stories that I want to collaborate on creating.

"It's also important to highlight America's most abundant legacy. How did Breonna Taylor's murderers get away with their actions after

worry that most people lack the self-love to hold themselves accountable. Heck, I really struggle with it. Most of the time, I feel guilty and cycle in my own self-shame. I project some of this onto some of the white folks in my life, whom I have been avoiding because I feel they make it easier for me to ignore that there is so much wrong in our society.

"I have been reading the work of Aliko Carter '11, and I have been moved by his thoughts on the collapse of the American empire. Support him on Patreon by googling 'post American dreamer Koji Tare,' and pay him for his work. He writes about us seeing the collapse of the American Empire, which is necessary at this point."

2011

REUNION 2021

MAY 24-JUNE 3 (virtual)

JUNE 4-5 (in-person, conditions permitting)

Events and Programs Contact
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Nuriel Moghavem and Sean Udell
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Howdy, 2011, and may you stay uninfected. Sean and I really appreciated getting all of your updates — it felt like a bit of normalcy in a

moved to Cambridge, Mass., last June after more than a dozen years in Manhattan, as her husband, Ron Gejman '10, matched to medical residency at Brigham and Women's Hospital. Blackstone Publishing is based out of Ashland, Ore., and has an office in NYC. Shira will be based in the Boston area and commuting frequently to NYC for work once it's safe.

Meredith Mead Lester and her husband, Kevin Lester '12, had twin boys, Tank and Thorn, on May 3. They spent their parental leaves on an 8,000-mile road trip, visiting 16 states and 15 national parks. Their favorite national park was Yosemite, and incredibly they ended up in Death Valley on the hottest day in history (130 degrees Fahrenheit!). Meredith and Kevin live in Chicago full time but have been living in their Park City, Utah, ski house since July.

Louise Beck and **Sam Beck** continued the twinning trend, welcoming daughters Emilia Rhianon (Emmy) and Tzipporah Adalia (Tess) in May.

We look forward to them meeting Tank and Thorn.

Stephanie Wilhem, a first lieutenant in the Delaware Army National Guard, recently graduated second in her class from The Judge Advocate General's Legal School and Center 211th Judge Advocate Officer Basic Course and was awarded The Judge Advocate General's School Award for Professionalism Merit. Stephanie successfully completed day and night land navigation courses, qualified on a rifle, successfully passed the Army Combat Fitness Test, completed a 6-mile foot march with a full combat load, studied military law (including military criminal law, government contract and fiscal law, legal assistance, claims, administrative law, and international and operational law) and participated in military exercises (including mock commander's briefs, strike cells and a court-martial). She says she is thankful that she has the opportunity in the midst of a successful legal career to serve our country.

Joshua Peagler, who has been a producer at *CBS This Morning* for six years, was recently promoted to executive producer at CBS News. It brought him back to New York City; he was previously based in Los Angeles.

Angela Radulescu finished a Ph.D. in psychology and neuroscience at Princeton last spring (featuring a Zoom defense because, well, 2020). She has since moved back to the city to start a two-year research fellowship at the NYU Center for Data Science. She lives in Brooklyn with her partner and adopted cat and is grateful for year-round farmers markets and Prospect Park.

Vesal Yazdi and his wife, Nicole Cerutti Yazdi BC'12, now have their hands full with Cyrus John, born on September 1 at a very heavy 6 lbs., 1 oz. Vesal reports that his world has been upside down and shaken vigorously since then! Cyrus's favorite pastimes include only sleeping when held, only peeing when his diaper is being changed and politely listening to his father play the piano for him. He's also a big fan of breast milk, to the relief of his mother.

Warren McGee married Kathryn Brill BC'13 on August 15 in a lovely, live-streamed ceremony with their families. They are looking forward to having many adventures together!

Adam Sieff has been moved to see so many classmates organizing for equal justice and democracy in their communities this year. Adam joined the Biden for President legal team last summer as voting rights and election integrity counsel. He shares that it is a privilege to do this work to protect our democracy, especially at this juncture in our nation's history. He says that Columbia, and in particular Professor Jean Cohen's courses, are where he learned to appreciate the fragility of self-government and the efforts ordinary citizens must be willing to expend to secure, preserve and expand the reaches of liberty. He is hopeful that our collective efforts will lead to happier days. Adam hopes to see many of us at our 10th reunion in June. [Editor's note: As of late October, the Alumni Office is planning Columbia Reunion 2021 as virtual events Monday, May 24–Thursday, June 3, and in-person events Friday, June 4–Saturday, June 5, conditions permitting. Watch your inbox for more.]

Inshallah, Adam. Inshallah.

Lastly, **Nuriel Moghavem** has two big updates to share. First, I proposed to my longtime best friend and partner Stephanie Muscat in September and am looking forward to spending the rest of my life

Meredith Mead Lester '12 and Kevin Lester '12 had twin boys, then spent their parental leaves on an 8,000-mile road trip.

months of nationwide and global protests? What message are we sending to Black women about the value of their lives? The journey of examining my own racist behavior and internalized racism has both been discouraging and encouraging. It's linked to what I was saying before about transformation and asking myself what it takes to shift. I also don't give others enough credit in their ability to shift because I

time when everything else seems so different. Of course, world events have not stood much in the way of all your accomplishments, and we are proud to see our colleagues succeeding on so many levels.

Shira Schindel recently switched jobs, leaving Audible, where she was senior manager of strategic content partnerships, to become head of content acquisitions with Blackstone Publishing. She also

Just Married!

CCT welcomes wedding photos where at least one member of the couple is a College alum. Please submit your high-resolution photo, and caption information, on our photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Congratulations!



1
CHAD WINSTEAD



2
STELLA IMAGE PHOTOGRAPHY



3
LEISE JONES



4
MASHA VESSET

DANNY WEISS



5
KELSEY LOCKHART PHOTOGRAPHY



6
ALISSA NOELLE



7



1. James Glynn '15 and Lisa Harshman '15 were married in New Bern, N.C., on September 26.

2. Tehreem Rehman '13 and Rayham Momin '12 celebrated their December 29, 2018, wedding at the Signature Grand in Davie, Fla., with many friends. Left to right: Lauren Haynes SEAS'13, Kapil Wattamwar SEAS'13, Abhaya Aravind SEAS'13, Ansh Johri SEAS'13, Sameea Butt '13, Daniel Schwartz '12, Andrea Roberts BC'13, Santosh Balachandar SEAS'12, Rubab Rehman '15, Dylan Kotliar '12, the bride, Peter Wallerson SEAS'12, the groom, Rich Nwaobasi SEAS'12, Jeanette Rodriguez '13, Gabriel Ho '12, Hien Truong '13, Julia Monk '13, Will Zhuang SEAS'12, Maryam Aziz '13, Carrie Montgomery '13 and Gerlin Serrano '13.

3. George Matthews and Natasha Matthews '12 (née Terhorst) were married on June 27 at Commonwealth Cambridge (Mass.).

4. Channah Leah Klapper and Jori Grossman '18 were married on August 10 in Sharon, Mass.

5. John O'Loughlin '12 married Paige O'Loughlin '14 (née Cuscovitch) on October 3 in Boston.

6. Grace Parra Janney '06 and Niall Janney at their October 4 wedding in Los Angeles.

7. Isaac White '14 and Kara Krakower BC'14 were married on September 12, the same date they met 10 years ago on campus. Here, they recreate a Sundial photo taken by Isaac's parents (at right), Allison White BC'86 and Jon White '85, nearly 40 years ago.

8. Yaira Kobrin '21 and Solomon Wiener '19 were married at Temple Emanu-El in Closter, N.J., on August 30.



ABBIE SOPHIA

watching *Seinfeld* reruns and exploring the world with her; we will be getting married in March in a small ceremony. She is not a Columbia or Barnard alumna, but I assure you that she is nevertheless pretty great. Second, I'll be moving back home to Los Angeles in July to continue my medical training with the University of Southern California Multiple Sclerosis Comprehensive Care Center Postdoctoral Physician Fellowship in M.S. and Neuroimmunology, seeing patients at both the Los Angeles County+USC Medical Center and Keck Medicine of USC.

2012

Sarah Chai
sarahbchai@gmail.com

Akiva Nelson (né Todd Nelson) started rabbinical school last fall at Hebrew College in Boston. He writes, "I'd love to say hi to Columbia folks in Boston, even if from afar. Hang in there, everyone."

I echo the sentiment and am sending best wishes for the continued health, safety and well-being of our classmates and loved ones. I hope to hear from others soon.

2013

Tala Akhavan
talaakhavan@gmail.com

Tehreem Rehman is an emergency physician on the South Side of Chicago and intends to transition into an executive leadership role to deliver equitable and value-based care at a systemwide level. She earned an M.D. from the Yale School of Medicine and an M.P.H. from The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Tehreem's health justice journey began at the College, where she majored in women's and gender studies and also met her life partner, Rayhan Momin '12. Her sister, Rubab Rehman '15, is thriving as a software engineer in NYC. Tehreem is grateful for not only the opportunities but also the relationships she still cherishes from her time at Columbia. [Editor's note: See "Just Married!"]

Devyn Tyler, a film and TV actress, was recently featured in Season 6, Episode 3 ("Alaska") of

Fear the Walking Dead. She has since escaped the zombie apocalypse and is now prosecuting serial killers in Toronto (masquerading as Washington, D.C.) as one of the main characters in the upcoming series *Clarice*, based on the famous *The Silence of the Lambs* story. *Clarice* is set to air on CBS sometime this year. Be sure to tune in!

Isabel Losada married Pablo Justel GSAS'19, a Ph.D. candidate in comp lit, in July. In attendance were **Miguel Rodríguez SEAS'13** and **Jane Lee**. After a brief honeymoon in Maine, the couple returned to settle in the Bronx and are both working from home. Isabel is the manager for membership at The Frick Collection, which is in the process of moving to The Breuer Building while a renovation project is underway at its original location. Pablo is a Spanish teacher at The Birch Wathen Lenox School on the Upper East Side. They live on Arthur Avenue and can tell you where to find the best ravioli and cannoli in town!

Fiona Georgakis began graduate school at the University of Chicago, working toward a master's in threat and response management. She has been attending classes virtually from Los Angeles.

2014

Rebecca Fattell
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Kate Eberstadt is releasing music with her sister Izzi Eberstadt BC'16 under the name Delune. Their debut album is due this year. Delune has been covered on PopSugar, and in *Glamour* and *ELLE*. Follow them for updates @deluneofficial!

Chaya Crowder earned a Ph.D. in political science from Princeton last July. She is an assistant tenure track professor of political science at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles.

After nearly five years working in Shanghai, **Chris Zombik** moved home to Massachusetts in November 2019. He is taking advantage of quarantine to work on a book, with plans to finish sometime this year.

Naomi Senbet is excited to share that she graduated from the dual degree program between The Wharton School (M.B.A.) and the

Harvard Kennedy School (M.P.A.) last May. Additionally, she joined Guidehouse in August as a managing consultant in the state and local government advisory practice. She says she's excited to leverage her experiences in the private sector as an investment banker and impact investor in her current role, solving challenging problems and building trust in society. Moreover, after nearly a decade away, Naomi moved back to her hometown of Washington, D.C. If the paradigm shift called the Covid-19 pandemic reinforced anything for her, she says, it's the ardent belief in the critical role well-functioning governing bodies and institutions play in enabling long-term prosperity for all. In that vein, she says, we're approaching an inflection point in the long march toward D.C. statehood. Support the campaign for representation! #51stState

On July 18, **Andrew Wood** and his wife, **Tala Akhavan '13**, welcomed their first child, daughter **Mila Jade**, into their quarantine. Everyone is well, combating cabin fever together and adjusting to a new definition of work-from-home/life balance.

A reminder, as noted in the Summer 2020 issue, that **Emily Dreibelbis** started Fremont Soap Company, named after her neighborhood in Seattle, to keep

busy during quarantine. She uses all-natural, vegan ingredients that are produced in the USA (California and North Dakota) that clean well and leave your skin feeling soft and smooth instead of dried out. She has five scents, including Spring Orchid, which has a beautiful, Columbia blue label! She hopes you'll check out fremontsoapcompany.com, give the soap a try, and spread the word to friends and family!

Paige O'Loughlin (née Cusco-vitch) and **John O'Loughlin '12** were married in Boston on October 3.

[Editor's note: See "Just Married!"]

Emily Kate founded a nonprofit, **Global Art Access**, to promote the public's access to and engagement with art and history. In 2019, she began a collaboration with the Frick Art Reference Library to bring unprecedented access to its Photoarchive in honor of its upcoming centennial celebration. Global Art Access is working to digitize privately held artwork catalogued through the Photoarchive. To date, the only image records of these works are black and white photographs taken by Helen Clay Frick in the 1920s. The digitizations have been made available online and mark the first time the works can be seen by the public in color. The project will continue through 2022 and aims to digitize 100 works by the time of The Frick's centennial celebration.

Independent of the Frick Centennial, **Global Art Access** works to digitize artwork in private collections across America to provide scholarly access to the works while maintaining the privacy of the collectors. Participating collectors receive a high-resolution image of each work for their catalog records and can be credited upon the surfacing of their digitized works on scholarly and public access platforms.

Anyone interested in having their collections considered for this treatment should visit globalartaccess.org.

2015

Kareem Carryl
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Hello, Class of 2015!

I hope that you all have been staying safe and healthy these past few months. During these times, it is amazing to see all the updates from



Enjoying fall and friendship on October 25 were (left to right) Nurit Lewis '15 and her daughter, Dahlia Lerer, and Raquel Wildes '15 and her daughter, Evelyn Genet.

members in our Columbia community. Here are a few from classmates.

Raquel Wildes JRN'16 and **Nurit Lewis** got together to celebrate fall and friendship. Joining them were Raquel's daughter, Evelyn Genet (3 months), and Nurit's daughter, Dahlia Lerer (1).

Lisa Harshman and **James Glynn** were married on September 26 in her hometown of New Bern, N.C. There were 16 Columbia College and Columbia Engineering alumni in attendance, including James's best man, Max Lindemann '20. [Editor's note: See "Just Married!"]

As always, classmates want to hear from you! Please submit updates by writing me at the address at the top of the column or via the CCT Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2016

REUNION 2021

MAY 24–JUNE 3 (virtual)

JUNE 4–5 (in-person, conditions permitting)

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Hey 2016. I recently attended a 2016 happy hour to kick off our fifth-year reunion, and after the shock that it has been five years wore off (jk, I'm still in shock), I had

a really great time. Would love to see more of you as reunion approaches, so please keep an eye on your inbox or reach out if you want more info or to get involved!

With that, I have three updates from four of your incredible classmates. Please continue nominating each other!

From **Julie Anne Hoffman**: "After graduating, I really found myself getting into writing. It started as a casual hobby where I'd write in coffee shops on the weekends. Fast forward four years and it somehow led me to two self-published books! My first was *Proud of You*, a collection of essays on my journey through grief. And most recently I self-published my first poetry book, *The Daylight Plays Tricks on Us*. I have also been sharing my work on my Instagram account — @juliannepoetry — for anyone interested in following along on my writing journey!"

From **Brian Chung** and **Katherine Nevitt**: "Brian and Katherine have managed to maintain their sanity living in a studio apartment together through quarantine. They had to delay their wedding a year, but that's OK because their work and TV watching habits have kept them busy (for example, six seasons of *The Sopranos* in a single month).

"Brian, co-president of Columbia College Young Alumni, has been organizing all those great alumni events you get emails about while also working for Citigroup's commercial real estate finance team for the last two years. Katherine is a research associate producer at the show *Last Week Tonight with John*



Andrew Wood '14 and Tala Akhavan '13 with their daughter, Mila Jade Wood, in Los Angeles on October 1.



Oliver, where she's been for three years. She also saw *Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again* in IMAX in 2018, which she thinks is a pretty important accomplishment.

"Brian and Katherine are proud of the impressive things their classmates have been up to and wish health and happiness to Columbia alumni everywhere during this pandemic. Wear your masks!"

From **Piyali Mukherjee SEAS'16**: "Not gonna lie, it's awkward greeting you all again. Apparently, I have to thank a lot more of you for enduring my most embarrassing years than I thought. **Lily Liu-Krason** and **Alex Randall** are independently holding me accountable to this. Thus, the formative effect of your indulgence has resulted in the following updates.

"Friends, Romans, and Casual Acquaintances™, you'll be pleased to know that since I've graduated, I've been doing exactly the job my degree qualified me for. In *Linked In-fluent*, I worked on clustering models at IBM Watson Health and now manage enterprise-scale cloud solutions at Google. In English, I push buttons on a keyboard and hope that the things the computers learn about you (consensually) helps you get better healthcare.

"Unfortunately, I must also inform you that I've culminated my

awkwardness into three years of performing, writing and improvising comedy at @improvboston. Last year was a harsh punishment for my stage-time gluttony, so I've transitioned to writing. This has resulted in a relatively new blog (letterdrop.co/@peelspls) hosted on a platform built by **Parthi Loganathan SEAS'16**. He saw my absurdly prolific Instagram (@peelspls) and asked, 'Can you be a nuisance on my platform instead?' I accepted the challenge.

"To correct for my significant moral deviations, I help high school students write college apps through Cambridge School Volunteers. Sometimes, I also help them design and build CS projects that help them win a Science Olympiad National Tournament or, at least, get better recommendations.

"My DMs remain open for questions, concerns or compliments."

2017

Carl Yin
carl.yin@columbia.edu

Laney McGahey is hunkering down in San Francisco and is in her second year of studying clinical research at UCSF. She lives with **Auriane Stone** and is lucky to get to see other Lions in the Bay from time to time, most recently **Hannah Juge '18** and **Kim Chia SEAS'20**. She hopes that everyone is doing well! Sending good thoughts your way.

Bianca Guerrero shares: "I spent last February-June doing rapid response research related to Covid-19, but quit my job at the NYC Mayor's Office in June to protest the administration's handling of the pandemic and police brutality. I started a part-time role on **Jamaal Bowman's** congressional campaign in February and went full-time in June. Bowman, a grassroots progressive candidate, beat a 16-term incumbent and tripled turnout in the June Democratic primary. As I write this I am field director for the campaign, and spend my spare time watching documentaries and looking for jobs for after November 3!"

Sarah Ricklan is an editor of a recently published book, *Monologues from the Makom: Intertwined Narratives of Sexuality, Gender, Body Image, and Jewish Identity*, an anthology featuring 32 first-person narratives

(including her own) that explore themes of Jewish feminism and sexuality, particularly in the observant world. The anthology aims to amplify women's voices and subvert community taboos.

Max Fiest LAW'20 will work at Mayer Brown in its New York Litigation department.

2018

Alexander Birkel and Maleeha Chida
ab4065@columbia.edu
mnc2122@columbia.edu

Trevor Menders has returned to the United States after two years in Tokyo doing research and language acquisition. He was in a state of perpetual semi-quarantine in Boston while finishing the first semester of his doctorate in art history at Harvard.

Abbey Li writes, "When the pandemic first hit New York, I felt so helpless that there was nothing I could do to help people in need — from front-line medical workers, to struggling business owners, to families living below the poverty line. It was so inspiring to hear about the alumni that immediately mobilized

2019

Tj Aspen Givens and Emily Gruber
tag2149@columbia.edu
eag2169@columbia.edu

Friends of the Class of 2019, we appreciate your submissions! We enjoy staying connected to the Columbia community during these unfamiliar times, and we hope you do too. Please send your updates for the next edition of Class Notes!

Tj Aspen Givens won The Gramercy Institute's Financial Content Marketing Award for her excellence in the strategy and execution of the business-to-business M&T Commercial Banking webinar and content series "Managing Through Challenging Times." Beyond her category-specific award, Tj won the prestigious "Best of" award across all winners in the single-country category. Review the series at mtb.com/managing and learn more about the award at gramercyinstitute.com.

Eric Li moved to Europe for grad school but says he misses his friends in New York.

Elif Memet is a second-year investment banking analyst in the industrials M&A group at Goldman

Abbey Li '18 joined a volunteer group, Send Chinatown Love, which helps small business owners in Chinatown and Flushing develop an online presence.

to donate PPE to NYC hospitals, and really see Columbia making a difference when it matters. I joined a volunteer group, **Send Chinatown Love**, which helps small business owners in Chinatown and Flushing develop an online presence so they have a better chance at surviving the economic downturn.

"Hoping everyone stays safe and healthy as we gradually transition into the 'new normal.' Wishing the best to all of you!"

Please reach out with your news via either of the email addresses at the top of the column, or the CCT Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Classmates would love to hear from and about you!

Sachs, where she worked on notable rescue financing for some of the largest transportation companies subsequent to Covid-19. **Elif**, who is from Romania, was recently on national television discussing macroeconomics in a post-Covid world with **Iulian Fruntasu**, former ambassador of the Republic of Moldova to the United Kingdom. She was also a speaker at a recent TEDx Romania event that focused on perspectives for Romania's future. Based on **Elif's** experience with the Core Curriculum, she provided a framework for critical thinking, identifying it as a key aspect of Romania's future.

Brent Morden was excited to enter his second year as program manager for children's choir non-



Brian Chung '16 and Katherine Nevitt '16, pre-Covid-19 but post-engagement.

profit Every Voice Choirs (NYC). He also began teaching musical theater and voice classes at From Stage to Screen Performing Arts Academy (Huntington, N.Y.) and was the audio designer last fall for the Transgressive Theatre-Opera (Chicago). Following in the footsteps of his work on *The Varsity Show*, Brent continues to compose and orchestrate for NYC-based musical theater productions. He's excited to see what opportunities this season will bring. Feel free to get in touch: brentmorden@gmail.com.

Aunoy Poddar started medical school at the UC San Francisco Medical Center.

Kara Schechtman sent an update: "I've started working full time for The Covid Tracking Project at *The Atlantic* for a few months, after spending last spring and summer in a volunteer role. We compile a dataset on coronavirus testing and outcomes in the United States and act as a watchdog on state Covid-19 data reporting practices. I've also moved back to the Upper West Side and love strolling up to campus to read on the lawns on weekends!"

Last summer, **Jordan Singer** started a role at Curology, a startup working to make prescription skincare accessible. As a member of the Product Lifecycle team, she helps design and build the systems

and campaigns through which Curology communicates with its patients. She says she leaned on many classmates for support in making this career transition and is always around to chat with others looking to do the same!

Miguel Tapia Colin shares: "I was promoted from a case analyst to a case administrator after working only one year and three months at Outten & Golden, a plaintiffs' employment and labor law firm."

Solomon Wiener and Yaira Kobrin '21 were married on August 30.

Congratulations! [Editor's note: See "Just Married!"]

Kevin Wu is a product manager at Coursedog, a Columbia-founded startup focused on building cloud-based software for universities.

Maia Young sends an update: "During the gap year and in the pre-Covid-19 days, I was a clinical assistant at private fertility clinics in both Manhattan and Atlanta, where I lived with my family until about the second month of medical school. I moved to Rochester, Minn., last August, where I am an M.D. candidate at Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine. Columbia and the family I made there while studying medicine, and literature and society, are near and dear to my heart, and I can't wait to return when the pandemic subsides!"

2020

REUNION 2021

MAY 24–JUNE 3 (virtual)

JUNE 4–5 (in-person, conditions permitting)

Events and Programs Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact
cctfund@columbia.edu

Santiago Tobar Potes and **Stephen Cone**

stp2120@columbia.edu
jsc2247@columbia.edu

Kyra Ann Dawkins has made her authorial debut! Her first novel, *The We and the They*, was published last July. The story is inspired by oral tradition and rooted in collective identity.

In the midst of the chaotic months that followed our digital graduation, **Sean Taylor** decided to make the most of his downtime and write/direct a feature film. Luckily, he had a group of stellar Columbia folks helping him as the bulk of his cast and crew: **Ryan Eppolito**, **Mason Coburn-Weigand** '23, **Kyra Chen** '21, **Ethan Kim** '23, **Tim Kiely** '19, **Bryn Wright BC** '20, **Alejandra Parisi BC** '20 and Professor Rob King. Sean filmed in Montana last July with about a dozen crew

members across two weeks, creating a comedy about a small-town lowlife who finds unexpected fame in the world of internet memes. The project is titled *COWBOY.MOV*—be on the lookout for a 2022 release!

Sarah Barth and **Max Edeson** were married in her parents' backyard in Long Branch, N.J., on July 5. Sarah is a student at the NYU School of Law, Class of 2023. Max is applying to medical school and working in a doctor's office in Manhattan for his gap year.

Sabrina Lautin road-tripped to Wyoming with her husband, Philip, and pug, Crouton. She'll work in finance in Cheyenne for the foreseeable future until starting her M.B.A. at the Business School, and during her time off will enjoy the West's skiing, hiking, national parks and steak.

[Editor's note: CC'20, your class's first reunion is coming up in May! As of late October, the Alumni Office is planning Columbia Reunion 2021 as virtual events Monday, May 24–Thursday, June 3, and in-person events Friday, June 4–Saturday, June 5, conditions permitting. Watch your inbox for more.]

Please send us your news! Write to either of us at the addresses at the top of the column, or use CCT's Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.



Enter for your chance to win a \$500 prize and publication in our Spring/Summer 2021 issue.

CCT Columbia College Today

Calling all writers!

CCT is holding its first-ever personal essay contest! The theme is **METAMORPHOSIS**.

Submission deadline is **Monday, March 8, 2021**; for topic guidelines and other info, go to college.columbia.edu/cct/essaycontest.

obituaries

Editor's note: In recognition of the toll taken by the Covid-19 pandemic, CCT will continue to acknowledge those in our community who have died from complications of the virus in our online feature "Lions We've Lost" (college.columbia.edu/cct).

1952

George E. Economakis, businessman, Athens, Greece, on November 5, 2020. Born on August 2, 1930, in Suez, Egypt, Economakis majored in economics and earned a master's in banking and finance from the Business School, also in 1952. He was a varsity fencer and a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Economakis began his business career as a banker in Egypt and then moved to Greece, where he was a ship owner. He was a lover of horses, history, genealogy, classical music and opera. Economakis is survived by his sons, Evelpides GSAS'94 and his wife, Iulia, Richard and his



George E. Economakis '52

wife, Diane, and Andrew '87 and his wife, Lito; brother, Alexander, and his wife, Tara; five grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

1953

Seymour L. Hendel, attorney and judge, New London, Conn., on October 25, 2020. Hendel was a pil-

lar of the community who graduated from the Bulkeley School in New London. Following graduation from Harvard Law, he returned to New London to practice law and raise his family near his parents and in-laws. After several decades, Hendel was appointed to the Connecticut Superior Court, where he served as presiding judge on both the criminal and civil divisions and as administrative judge, finishing his career as a senior judge. Hendel believed in giving back to the community and did so in many ways. He actively supported Columbia College and cheered on the football team. He also supported the Eastern Connecticut Symphony, Temple Emanu-El, and many arts and cultural organizations. Hendel organized and was the first president of the Jewish Community Council of Greater New London and was president of the Eastern Connecticut Symphony, among other leadership roles. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Patricia; sons, Douglas and his

wife, Ellen Lautenberg, and Clifford and his wife, Catherine Armand; daughter, Caroline, and her husband, John Wysolmerski; seven grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Memorial contributions may be made to the Eastern Connecticut Symphony, 289 State St., New London, CT 06320, or Temple Emanu-El, 29 Dayton Rd., Waterford, CT 06385.

Robert A. Prendergast, physician and marine researcher, Falmouth, Mass., on May 4, 2020. Prendergast was coxswain and crew captain during his senior year and left a lasting legacy to Columbia alongside the Harlem River, where he was one of the original painters of the blue and white C that adorns the Spuyten Duyvil cliff across from Baker Athletics Complex. After he graduated from Boston University School of Medicine, Prendergast became a captain in the U.S. Army Medical Corps stationed at Walter Reed AMC. He subsequently joined the Department of Ophthal-

Arthur Ashkin '47, Nobel Prize-Winning Physicist

Identifying the tiny machinery of life is one thing. Creating a device that enables scientists to take hold of these microscopic objects for study and manipulation is another, and opens up a world of possibilities.

That was the challenge met by **Arthur Ashkin '47**, who won the Nobel Prize in Physics on October 2, 2018, for his groundbreaking research in laser physics over the course of more than 50 years. Specifically, Ashkin was recognized for figuring out how to harness the power of light to trap and study microscopic objects. Ashkin's invention of optical tweezers enabled scientists to grasp "particles, atoms, viruses and other living cells with their laser beam fingers," creating ways to observe and control the machinery of life, wrote the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

On September 21, 2020, Ashkin died at his home in Rumson, N.J.,

where he had worked on various projects until his passing. He held 47 patents and was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 2013.

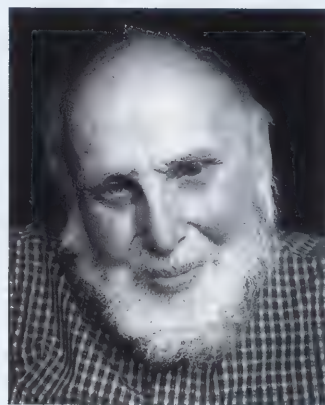
"I was interested in science since I was a kid," Ashkin said when his Nobel Prize was announced. "So I tell my wife that's the only thing that I'm really good at."

Ashkin was born on September 2, 1922, in Brooklyn, N.Y., one of four children; his older brother, Julius '40, GSAS'44, also became a physicist and played an important role in the Manhattan Project, the secret effort during WWII to develop the atomic bomb. After graduating from James Madison H.S., Ashkin followed Julius to the College and worked in the Columbia Radiation Laboratory on magnetrons, which produced microwaves and were a precursor to the laser. He joined Bell Labs after obtaining a Ph.D. from Cornell in

1952 and worked there until his retirement in 1992. He led the lab's laser science department 1963-87, and it was there that he developed his optical tweezers.

Ashkin, who had been interested in the subject of light pressure since childhood, created his optical tweezers by shining a laser through a tiny magnifying lens, which creates a focal point for the laser. Particles are drawn in and trapped there, unable to move. Trapping biological material proved to have groundbreaking practical applications in research and in understanding the behavior of the basic building blocks of life, like DNA. Today, optical tweezers are widely manufactured and sold to researchers.

Ashkin was awarded one-half of the 2018 physics prize, sharing it with Gérard Mourou of France and Donna Strickland of Canada. At 96, he was the oldest recipient of



JORG MEYER

a Nobel Prize at the time; the next year, John B. Goodenough received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry at 97.

Ashkin is survived by his wife, Aline, a former high school chemistry professor; sons, Daniel and Michael; daughter, Judith; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

— Alex Sachare '71

mology and Pathology at The Johns Hopkins University as a research and teaching professor. Later, he was an adjunct senior scientist at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Mass., where he worked with Dr. Jack Levin, also of Johns Hopkins and the MBL, in endotoxin research with horseshoe crabs. Prendergast was on the laboratory's marine resources committee 1978–82, was a member of the MBL's discovery campaign steering committee and was elected to its Board of Trustees in 2005. He is survived by his nieces, Laura '88 and Cathy. Memorial contributions may be made to Feeding America.

1954

Walter A. Bossert Jr., attorney, Lincoln, Mass., on October 10, 2020. Born in New York City on October 5, 1932, Bossert majored in economics and served in the Air Force 1954–57 as a lieutenant commander and top-secret security officer during



Walter A. Bossert Jr. '54

the Korean War, most notably at Rushmore Air Force Station during the Suez Crisis of 1956. After graduation from the University of Virginia Law School in 1960, Bossert worked 34 years at the New York law firm of Gould & Wilkie, 19 as senior partner. He was general counsel to well-known corporations including Associated Dry Goods and its principal division, Lord & Taylor; Tiffany & Co.; and Central Hudson Gas &

Electric. In 1980, Bossert and his partner, Davison Grant, teamed with renowned attorney Telford Taylor, chief prosecutor of the Nuremberg Trials, to successfully argue the case *Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation v. Public Service Commission of New York* before the U.S. Supreme Court; the landmark First Amendment rights case is still studied in law schools. Bossert is survived by his wife, Mariel; son, William; and daughters, Ellen '86 and Laura. Memorial contributions may be made to Lyrica Boston, Inc., 53 South Great Rd., Lincoln, MA 01773.

1956

Harold B. Markowitz, orthopedic surgeon, Beverly Hills, on January 19, 2020. Born in Cleveland, Markowitz graduated from Case Western Reserve Medical School in 1960 and moved to Los Angeles in 1961 to complete his medical residency at Los Angeles County Medical Center.

He was a captain in the Air Force and was chief of orthopedic surgery at Plattsburgh (N.Y.) AFB. After military service, he entered private solo practice in the Los Angeles area and was on staff at many local hospitals, including Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, for more than 40 years. He was an attending physician of orthopedic surgery at UCLA, a fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and of the American College of Sports Medicine, and a diplomate of the Arthroscopic Board of North America. Markowitz was devoted to his family and his Jewish faith, first as a member of Beth Jacob Congregation and later as a member of the Beverly Hills Synagogue. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Vera; sons, David and his wife, Sara, and Steven and his wife, Michelle; daughter, Susan, and her husband, Ira; and six grandchildren.

Socrates Nicholas, market researcher, New York City, on October 19, 2020. Born on July 11, 1934,

William L. "Billy" Goldenberg '57, TV, Film and Stage Composer

You might not know his name, but it's likely you've heard his music.

Billy Goldenberg '57 collaborated with Elvis Presley, Barbra Streisand and Diana Ross; wrote the themes for many TV series, including *Kojak* and *Rhoda*; composed the pilot scores for *Night Gallery* and *Columbo*; and won Emmys for the TV movie *Queen of the Stardust Ballroom* and the miniseries *The Lives of Benjamin Franklin*; *King*; and *Rage of Angels*.

With lyricists Marilyn Bergman and Alan Bergman, Goldenberg expanded his 1975 *Queen of the Stardust Ballroom* score into the score of the 1978 Broadway musical *Ballroom*, directed and choreographed by Michael Bennett, of *A Chorus Line* fame. It earned eight Tony nominations, including Best Musical.

Following that collaboration, Alan Bergman told *Variety*: "Billy was one of the rare composers who was also a dramatist. Lots of people can write melodies, but you could tell Billy the situation, what the characters were feeling, and his music would reflect that."

Goldenberg died on August 4, 2020, in New York City. He was 84.

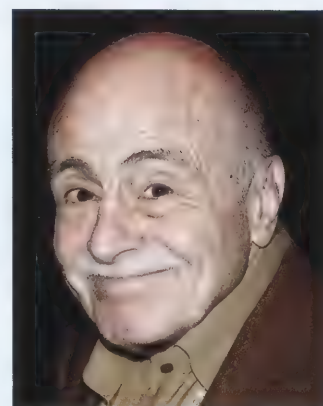
Born on February 10, 1936, in Brooklyn, N.Y., William L. Goldenberg grew up with music as the son of a violinist mother and percussionist father. He began playing piano at 5 and became a protegee of Broadway songwriter Frank Loesser (*Guys and Dolls*). Jobs as a rehearsal pianist led to dance arrangements, orchestrations for TV shows like *Hullabaloo* and music for acts including Mike Nichols and Elaine May.

Goldenberg moved to Hollywood in late 1968 and scored many of television's most important films, garnering 25 Emmy Award nominations. He was renowned for his versatility: dark, frightening music for Steven Spielberg's 1971 *Duel*; a combination of electronic and orchestral sounds for Rod Serling's 1969 *Night Gallery* pilot; grandly romantic music for 1971's "Ransom for a Dead Man," the second *Columbo* pilot, which sold the Peter Falk series; a banjo and guitar

theme for the western *Alias Smith and Jones*; dignified French horns for the George Peppard mystery series *Banacek*; synthesizer sounds for *Ghost Story*; and the children's chorus in *Rhoda*.

He was musical director for *Elvis '68*, the legendary special that reignited the pop star's career, and held similar posts for TV specials starring Ross, Petula Clark, Leslie Uggams and Ann-Margret. He scored series such as *Ironside*; *It Takes a Thief*; and *The Name of the Game*; and all of Spielberg's television work.

He also scored several feature films including Presley's *Change of Habit*; *The Grasshopper*; *Red Sky at Morning*; Woody Allen's *Play It Again, Sam*; Streisand's *Up the Sandbox*; *The Last of Sheila*; *Busting*; *The Domino Principle*; and *Reuben, Reuben*. But Goldenberg was best known as a television composer, earning additional Emmy nominations for the TV movies *The Marcus-Nelson Murders*; *The Migrants*; *Helter Skelter*; the remake of *Dark Victory*; *The*



Gangster Chronicles; *Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy*; *Bare Essence*; and *Nutcracker: Money, Madness and Murder*.

"A composer should be sensitive to what's happening on the screen," Goldenberg told the *Los Angeles Times*. "It's better to underplay and understate, even though it often becomes a personal struggle for me because I'm very emotional, always ready to pour my heart out."

— Alex Sachare '71



Submit an Obituary

Please go to college.columbia.edu/ccf/contact-us.

in Brooklyn, N.Y., to Greek immigrants, Nicholas spent his childhood working after school in his parents' florist shop with his brother, Theodore, who predeceased him. He founded Nicholas Research Associates International, which pioneered qualitative market research and provided services for Fortune 500 companies for decades. Nicholas was on the Columbia University Board of Trustees for five years and was a member of The 1754 Society. He had a deep concern for social justice and education reform, and was a Life Trustee of Oliver Scholars, which prepares high-achieving Black and Latino students from underserved New York City communities for success at top independent schools and prestigious colleges. Nicholas was a passionate lover of theater and music, particularly the opera, and for 25 years was on the Advisory Board of the Metropolitan Opera. It was said his presence could fill a room — he was warm, witty, firm of opinion, and as generous as it was possible to be. He is survived by his spouse, Gerard Bell, with whom he spent 42 years traveling the world and entertaining friends in their New York and Connecticut homes.

1959

J. Michael Stern, government official and analyst, Washington, D.C., on August 2, 2020. Born on September 5, 1938, in Leipzig, Germany, Stern and his family emigrated to the United States and settled in Clarence, N.Y. He majored in French and earned an M.A. from GSAS in 1961. Commencing with positions in the budget and legislative branches of the former Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Stern developed a distinguished career in government that included serving as staff director of the Senate Finance Committee under Sen. Russell Long (D-La.). He later was a legislative analyst for the Investment Company Institute. For more than 50 years, Stern was a prominent member of his synagogue, Adas Israel Congregation, where he and his

wife of 60 years, Joyce (née Duran), were among the founding families of the lay-led prayer service. A gifted scholar and linguist, Stern mentored hundreds of congregants and was recognized by the synagogue in 2018 as a Master Teacher. He is survived by his wife; sister, Raya; son, Avidan, and his wife, Linda; daughter, Lise; and five grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Adas Israel Congregation, 2850 Quebec St. N.W., Washington, DC 20008, or to Our Place of New Trier, 370 Chestnut St., Winnetka, IL 60093.

1963

Steven J. Shirk, teacher, Clamart, France, on September 5, 2020. Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., on December 13, 1942, Shirk pursued graduate studies in psychology at Temple and spent most of his career at the American School of Paris as a psychologist, teacher and guidance counselor. In retirement, he lived outside Paris and volunteered as a listener at SOS Help. "He was a faithful friend who treasured his many connections with kindred spirits around the world," recalled his nephew, Ben Wildavsky. "From his quick wit to his lively intelligence — and his willingness to burst into song at the slightest pretext — Steve had many wonderful and memorable qualities." In addition to Wildavsky, Shirk is survived by a cousin and a great-nephew. Memorial contributions may be made to the Columbia College Fund (college.columbia.edu/givenow), The Louis August Jonas Foundation or Doctors Without Borders.

1966

Stephen A. Lesser, architect, East Hampton, N.Y., on July 12, 2019. Born on July 15, 1944, in Bethesda, Md., Lesser studied under renowned modernist architect Charles Gwathmey, his undergraduate thesis advisor at Columbia. In 1971 Lesser earned a master's at Harvard and then worked at several Boston firms including Benjamin Thompson and Associates, where he was a project architect of Faneuil Hall Marketplace. In 1975 he moved to New York and joined Richard Meier Associates, where he honed his Corbusian style in residential and

OTHER DEATHS REPORTED

Columbia College Today also has learned of the following deaths. Complete obituaries will be published in an upcoming issue, pending receipt of information.

- 1954 Michael I. Frischberg, teacher, Aberdeen, N.J., on April 19, 2020.
- 1956 Peter Andrews Poole, foreign service officer, professor and writer, Sugar Hill, N.H., on October 4, 2020.
- 1957 Anthony G. Lubows, engineer, San Marcos, Calif., on January 20, 2020.
- Edward A. Weiner, pathologist, Bethesda, Md., on April 20, 2020.
- 1958 Albert J. Sabatini, psychiatrist, New York City, on October 29, 2020.
- 1960 Gary A. Hershendorfer, economist, Avonmore, Pa., on October 28, 2020.
- 1962 John A. Istvan, petroleum engineer, Spring, Texas, on September 28, 2020.
- 1964 Stephen H. Levitt, author, professor of Oriental studies, Queens, N.Y., on October 14, 2020.
- 1971 Richard S. Milich, professor of clinical psychology, Lexington, Ky., on November 7, 2020.
- 1973 John Keating Wilcox, radio executive and teacher, Manchester, Mass., on July 16, 2020.
- 1976 Nicholas P. Sganin, musician and teacher, Ossining, N.Y., on October 19, 2020.
- 1978 Thomas T. Soter, journalist and improv producer and teacher, New York City, on August 14, 2020.
- 1979 Manuel R. Garcia III, oil and gas executive, San Antonio, Texas, on November 4, 2020.
- 1988 George Poon, financial officer, Brooklyn, N.Y., on September 23, 2020.
- 1988 Brian A. Kelzer, journalist and producer, New York City, on March 17, 2020.
- 2016 Yanbalra B. Tigistu, marketer, Brooklyn, N.Y., on November 14, 2020.

commercial buildings. After time as a director at Rivkin/Weisman, in 1986 Lesser formed Nagel and Lesser Architects, in East Hampton, and since 1994 he had been a sole practitioner. His wife, Celia M. Josephson, said that he "stroved for a clarity of line and a density of ideas to unify the elements within each building and project." Lesser's first marriage, to Ellen McClelland, ended in divorce. In addition to his second wife, he is survived by his son, Jonathan '17, SIPA'20; daughters, Alexandra and Emma; and sister, Katherine.

1971

Timothy J. DeBaets, entertainment attorney, Manhattan Beach, Calif., on September 27, 2020. DeBaets was a partner of Cowan, DeBaets, Abrahams & Sheppard, first representing clients in the world of dance at its New York office and then extending that to film, theater and television when he relocated to its Los Angeles office. He is survived by his wife, Kathy Oh; and their twins, son, Joseph, and daughter, Juliet.

—Alex Sachare '71

*caption*this!

CARTOON CAPTION CONTEST

This issue's installment is by Dr. Benjamin Schwartz '03, PS'08, a regular cartoonist for *The New Yorker*.

Any College student or College alum may enter; no more than three entries per person. Submit your idea, along with your full name, CC class year and daytime phone, to cct@columbia.edu by Monday, May 3.



“He’s been thinking a lot about race recently.”

The winner of our Fall 2020 caption contest is **Jaysen Zhang '21!**
Thank you for all your submissions.

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— Lilly Cao CC'22



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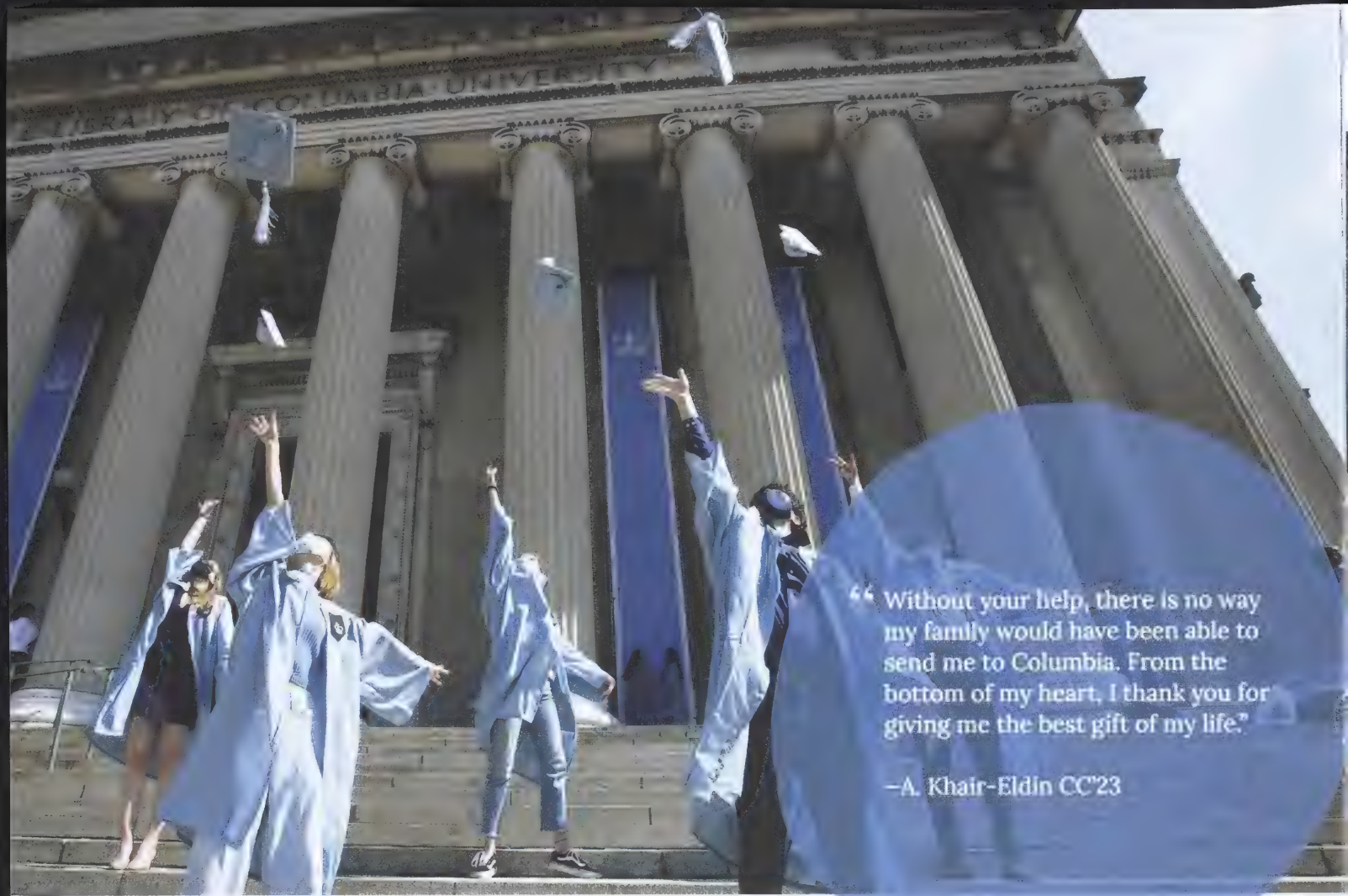
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—A. Khair-Eldin CC'23

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Cover: Photograph by Jörg Meyer

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Online Exclusive: Championing a Common Cause

Podcaster Mila Atmos '96, SIPA'05 wants listeners to join the political conversation.

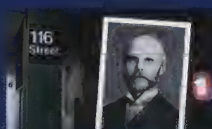
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Patrick Radden Keefe '99 Dishes About *Empire of Pain*

The *New York Times* bestselling author discusses his new book's most striking revelations.

>> bit.ly/3eHAegg



The Alum Who Designed the NYC Subway

Boost your knowledge of Columbia history with this "Did You Know?" video short.

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Message from the Dean

Congratulations to the Class of 2021

On April 28, I addressed the Class of 2021 in a virtual Class Day ceremony, where I touched upon the theme of Beginner's Mind. Students and families viewed the ceremony from campus at socially distanced watch gatherings and remotely from locations around the world. What follows is an excerpt from my speech.

The word "global" appears to have its first use in the 17th century, and had only limited use until the mid-20th century. In 1960, Canadian philosopher Marshall McLuhan made a prescient statement that electronic media would shrink the world to "a village or tribe where everything happens to everyone at the same time: everyone knows about, and therefore participates in, everything that is happening the minute it happens ... in the global village." In the first part of the 21st century that sense of global connection has taken on new meaning, new import and frequent use, in the phrase "global pandemic."

You, the members of the Columbia College Class of 2021, have experienced our global pandemic in many ways, but likely mostly through loss. Some of you have lost family members, some of you may have been taken ill by the virus; others experienced financial setbacks in your families, and most of you had to contend with severe individual dislocations and disruptions of your normal lives. But what all of you share is a loss of your expected Columbia College senior year experience. Expectations not met are particularly difficult losses to accept, whatever the nature of the expectation. I share that sense of loss, though obviously in a different way.

While I cannot celebrate you in person, I assure you that today you are celebrated and you are special. You are to be celebrated as a class that displayed impressive adaptability, resourcefulness, resilience, persistence and determination. That is why you are part of this Class Day celebration. Despite the many personal challenges, setbacks, disappointments and losses each of you has encountered, you completed your Columbia College studies and earned this most valuable degree. It will always be recognized as especially valuable for the daunting challenges presented in the year 2021.

But there are some elements of today's ceremony that are not unique to this difficult year. Something that every Columbia College graduate might expect to hear from me at Class Day is, "In the Beginner's Mind, there are many possibilities; in the expert's mind there are few." For those in our audience who have not heard that before, Beginner's Mind is the Zen Buddhist concept "shoshin," which advises us to see the world with eyes open, as if we were seeing everything for the first time. In a world of unprecedented challenges, everyone is a beginner by definition because there can be no experience of the unprecedented. And without such experience, no expertness in the sense used here. But that does not mean that Beginner's Mind becomes trivial or automatic or easy. No. Beginner's Mind looks to the possibilities of



DIANE BONDAREFF

the future, guiding choices of what to do now as the unprecedented has arrived. And it, indeed, requires our serious effort.

It directs us to think about what we do in response to the unprecedented. Beginner's Mind cultivates a mindset that anything is possible, and that should be our expectation, never a surprise. The unprecedented is to be imagined and anticipated. Your entire Columbia College experience has been unprecedented because it is an experience unique to each of you, full of discoveries and realizations, and most importantly, a new sense of all the possibilities held within each of you.

When you arrived at Columbia you had ideas about the world and your place in it. Sitting in small Core seminars you were asked to speak about, advocate for and defend your ideas, and to understand and appreciate those of others. I expect that your understanding about the world and your place in it changed in ways unexpected to you. That is good. That is your Beginner's Mind being developed. That recognition won't diminish the disappointments of this unpredictable senior year. But it will point the way to reframing your thinking from what has been lost to what can be done that is new and full of possibility.

As you continue your Columbia College Journey beyond graduation, I look forward to seeing how you do that, and hearing about how you do that, frequently, in person at Columbia Reunion and at the other events that make up your College journey. I have no doubt that the creativity and imagination each of you individually has developed here will enable you to meet every challenge with the same determination that you displayed in completing your senior year. Congratulations to you, our graduates, and to your families, teachers, mentors and advisors.

Dean James J. Valentini and Elena Comas Wood '21 share a celebratory elbow bump.

James J. Valentini
Dean

Gooooooo, Graduates!

The Class of 2021 became alumni with a virtual Class Day experience on April 28. Local members of the class were invited to attend on-campus watch parties, while hundreds of others tuned in remotely with friends and family members.

The keynote speaker, actor and director Mario Van Peebles '78, addressed the class from a majestic backdrop overlooking the Hudson River and the western skyline; he urged the new grads, who are launching into an uncertain, post-pandemic world, to shake up their "boxes." "Be a nerd for people, expand your friend group," Van Peebles said. "Be a critical thinker, be courageous. Don't be afraid to get into good trouble and effect good change."

He closed his address with an uplifting directive: "Love and enjoy what you do for a living. Love and enjoy the people you get to work with. And love and enjoy what your work brings to the world. If you get those three career chakras to line up, you're rich no matter what the paycheck."

A virtual University Commencement was held on April 30, while Grad Walk festivities offered in-person opportunities to celebrate throughout the week. More than 500 seniors turned out to take photos on the graduation stage and bump elbows with Dean James J. Valentini (see what the dean had to say on page 3).



DIANE BONDAREFF

the **BigPicture**





Farewell to a Friend

I'm an alum and have never written to *CCT*.

I stumbled across the lovely *New York Times* obituary for Tom Vinciguerra '85, JRN'86, GSAS'90, placed by a number of his friends (legacy.co/3eiwYrB) — lucky, I suppose; it's so easy to miss the weekday obit notices, especially now that many of us read the paper online.

Tom was a few years older than I, but we chatted numerous times in the old *Spectator* office on Amsterdam Avenue when I was a freshman reporter and he was an editor; it was, in many ways, the Columbia sentimental education — a student from the provinces (I'm from Baltimore) is told the secrets of New York by a slightly older student from the Tri-State area, always at night. Columbia in one line, boom! He was smart and funny and held forth on philosophy, language, politics, culture, literature, history, NYC and, most of all, Columbiana.

Over the next 30-plus years, I regularly saw Tom's *Times* byline on a catholic range of topics: Santa Claus, James Bond, *The Sting*, Star Wars, Watergate, WWI and so on. And in a great twist, the sister of a friend from high school reviewed his book about *The New Yorker*. Seeing his byline was like running into the same friend from your John Jay floor at Grand Central every five years.

Then I saw his death notice and felt really sad that I wouldn't run into him anymore.

He was smart and funny, the highest Columbia praise.

Steve Sagner '88
White Plains, N.Y.

Lions We've Lost

I greatly appreciate the online spotlight on College alumni who have succumbed to Covid-19 ["Lions We've Lost," written by Alex Sachare '71, college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/fall-2020/article/lions-weve-lost] and hope you'll allow me to add a few details of interest.

Two of the alumni who are included were former staffers at *Columbia College Today*: Terrence McNally '60, assistant editor from 1963 to 1965, before his distinguished career as a playwright revved up, and Stephen Steiner '66, editor from 1973 to 1974, who went on to *Sport* magazine and a career as a public relations executive with major Jewish organizations. Both were lovely people, and proud of their connection to *CCT*.

Columbia University Athletics Hall of Famer Tom O'Connor '63 was indeed, as your headline proclaimed, a football player, an officer and a gentleman. He was also the oldest of 10 siblings from Chicopee, Mass. — three girls and seven boys, no fewer than four of whom played for the Lions at Baker Field: John O'Connor '67, Jim O'Connor '69 and Dan O'Connor '82, in addition to Tom. Through the years, I got to know Tom not only as a true-blue alum but also as my brother-in-law. Tom was the beating heart of a large, warm-hearted extended family I was blessed to join by marriage 20 years ago. We all miss him terribly.

Jamie Katz '72, BUS'80
New York City

An Overdue Appreciation

Thank you for publishing the obituary of William L. "Billy" Goldenberg '57, written

Contact Us

CCT welcomes letters from readers about articles in the magazine but cannot print or personally respond to all letters received. Letters express the views of the writers and not *CCT*, the College or the University. All letters are subject to editing for space, clarity and *CCT* style. Please submit Letters to the Editor online:

college.columbia.edu/cct/contact-us.

by Alex Sachare '71 [Winter 2020–21]. It is a wonderful tribute to a warm, wonderful human being.

I met Billy when I was in the Columbia Players, and he and I were songwriters for the Varsity Show in the 1950s. He taught me much about songwriting. Billy and my wife, Harriet, and daughter, Aimee, and I continued our warm relationship until his death last August.

I remember sitting in the first row for *An Evening with Mike Nichols and Elaine May*, when he got me a house seat because he played the piano for their performances. In those days Billy was delighted to be living in an apartment that previously was the home of George Gershwin. We kept in touch when he was in Hollywood, and I visited him whenever we traveled to the West Coast. When we last saw him, before the pandemic, he was working on a revival of *Ballroom*.

It has been disappointing to me that, until your obituary, Columbia had not widely recognized one of its most talented graduates. The Varsity Show annually presents the I.A.L. Diamond Award for Achievement in the Arts, and for many years I have submitted Billy's name and career for consideration. It has been frustrating that he has never won. Few people will ever match Billy's marvelous career.

Jerome Breslow '56
Potomac, Md.

A Hall of Fame Family

I always enjoyed Tom Vinciguerra '85, JRN'86, GSAS'90's "Hall of Fame" articles, such as his piece on Oswald Jacoby CC 1922 [Winter 2020–21].

One might add that the brilliant card player's father, also named Oswald Jacoby, graduated from the College in 1890. An uncle, Harold Jacoby, also was a Columbia graduate (CC 1885, GSAS 1895), and from 1894 until his death in 1932 was a professor of astronomy at Columbia. Among Harold's many accomplishments was working out the timekeeping details of the Sundial.

The bridge expert's niece, Susan Jacoby, is an accomplished writer, who has authored, among other books, a fascinating study of her family in *Half-Jew: A Daughter's Search for Her Family's Buried Past*.

Francis J. Sypher Jr. '63, GSAS'68
New York City

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Around the Quads

Historic Financial Aid Initiative

The College recently launched the largest financial aid initiative in its history, committing to raise \$500 million in financial assistance by 2025. Part of a University-wide effort, the initiative will significantly expand scholarships and ensure that any student can attend and thrive at the College, regardless of family income. "Our commitment to financial aid is inspired by its triple impact: It can change the student, the College and the world," says Dean James J. Valentini. "It also ensures that a multitude of voices are present in the classroom, increasing the rigor of discourse, critical thinking and cultural fluency that define Columbia College students and alumni."

Trio of New Trustees

Jeh Johnson LAW'82, Adam Pritzker '07 and Sheena Wright '90, LAW'94 have been elected University trustees. Johnson is a partner in the firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, and a former secretary of homeland security. Pritzker is the founder and CEO of the investment group Assembled Universe, and the co-founder and chair of the not-for-profit Future Now. Wright is the president and CEO of United Way of New York City. "Jeh, Adam and Sheena have achieved great professional success while demonstrating a profound commitment to some of the most important issues facing society, including economic and racial inequality, education and sustainability," said President Lee C. Bollinger.

Eight Guggenheims for Columbians

In April, eight faculty members were awarded 2021 Guggenheim fellow-



Bernard E. Harcourt



Denise Cruz

TRILLING AND VAN DOREN AWARDS: Bernard E. Harcourt, the Isidor and Seville Sulzbacher Professor of Law and a professor of political science, is the winner of the 46th annual Lionel Trilling Book Award for *Critique & Praxis: A Critical Philosophy of Illusions, Values, and Action*. Harcourt is the founding director of the Columbia Center for Contemporary Critical Thought and the executive director of the College's Eric H. Holder Initiative for Civil and Political Rights; his book charts a vision for political and social transformation.

Denise Cruz, an associate professor of English and comparative literature, was honored with the 60th annual Mark Van Doren Award for Teaching, which recognizes a faculty member's humanity, devotion to truth and inspiring leadership. Cruz was honored for her "innovative, meaningful, and, most importantly, human" adaptation to teaching during the pandemic.

ships: Ashkan Behzadi, a core lecturer in music; Zosha Di Castri, a professor of music; Farah Jasmine Griffin, chair of the Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies; Sidney R. Hemming, a professor of earth and environmental sciences; Miya Masaoka, director of the Sound Art Program at the School of the Arts; Jason Nieh, a professor of computer science; Paige West, a professor of anthropology; and Kate Zambreno, an adjunct professor of writing. "I am thrilled to announce this new group of fellows," said Edward Hirsch, president of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, "especially since this has been a devastating year in so many ways. A Guggenheim fellowship has always been meaningful, but this year we know it will be a lifeline — a survival tool as well as a creative one."

Columbia Tops in Fulbrights

In February, Columbia was named a top-producing institution for the Fulbright U.S. Student Program, with 31 awardees in 2020–21. The University has been on the top-producing list for the last 10 years. The awardees included 18 College affiliates, who received grants to pursue independent research, postgraduate studies or English Teaching Assistantships, in locations ranging from Argentina, to Vietnam, to the Netherlands. Established in 1946, the Fulbright program is the most widely recognized and prestigious international exchange program in the world. It operates in more than 160 countries and facilitates cultural exchange through direct interaction in the classroom, field and home, and in daily life.

Three Core Chairs Finish Their Terms

The College will see a major changing of the guard this summer, as three of the five Core Curriculum chairs complete their three-year terms on June 30: Noam Elcott '00, the Jonathan Sobel & Marcia Dunn Program Chair for Art Humanities; Emmanuelle Saada, chair of Contemporary Civilization; and Joanna Stalnaker, the Paul Brooke Program Chair for Literature Humanities.

Elcott, Saada and Stalnaker helmed the Core during an especially significant time. An extended celebration of the Core Centennial began in fall 2019, as the curriculum transitioned into its second century; then the turbulence of the Covid-19 pandemic arrived the following spring. Larry Jackson, associate dean of Academic Affairs, Core Curriculum and Undergraduate Programs, praised their efforts. "At a moment marked by serious crisis, they were innovative, they improvised, they worked relentlessly to get us through," Jackson says. "With amazing care and sensitivity, they were able to make sure we didn't compromise the rigor or the quality of the work, and were tireless advocates for instructors, preceptors and students."

Diversifying the curriculum was a defining feature of the outgoing chairs' terms. Elcott led the first syllabus review process for Art Hum since the class was created in 1947. "When I took over as chair, there was not a single woman artist or a single artist of color on the syllabus," he says. "Today, the vast majority of units feature one or both. Collectively, the units of Art Humanities are now better able to bridge the gaps of time and space to interrogate vital questions of our presents and open essential windows into our pasts."

For Contemporary Civilization, Saada introduced a unit on race and justice and added texts by David Walker, Frederick Douglass, Martin Luther King Jr., Angela Davis and James Baldwin. She also created CC Chats, conversations with scholars and experts that tied CC texts to contemporary issues. (A syllabus review for CC is in progress.)

"I have greatly enjoyed my time as chair of Contemporary Civilization," says Saada, adding that she thought of the role as "being the temporary facilitator of a 100-year-long conversation." "I've found it

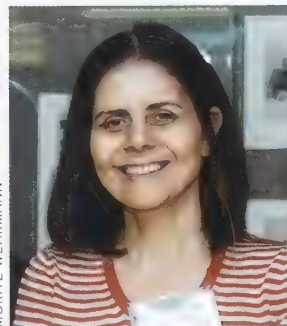
particularly exciting to think with instructors and students about continuity and change. While the texts we discuss have delineated a long intellectual trajectory, the content, terms and tone of our conversations about them are constantly changing in response to the problems of our time."

Stalnaker introduced the Contemporary Core requirement to Lit Hum, assigning a modern work to be read in the fall term that

Family Professor of English Literature and a professor of classics, will be the interim chair of Lit Hum for one year; Joseph Howley, an associate professor of classics, will assume the role in July 2022. Carole Rovane, the Violin Family Professor of Philosophy, will be the new chair of CC; and Zoë Strother, the Riggio Professor of African Art, will chair Art Hum. (David Helfand and Elaine Sisman



Noam Elcott '00



Emmanuelle Saada



Joanna Stalnaker

complements the ancient texts being taught during that time. "One of the concerns around Lit Hum was that you have an entire term devoted exclusively to ancient Greek and Roman works, then in the second term, you race through 2,000 years of literature," Jackson says. "Joanna was sensitive to and mindful of the ways that can create exclusions on the syllabus." In 2019, Stalnaker assigned *Father Comes Home from the Wars* by Suzan-Lori Parks, which responds to Black Lives Matter and racial justice in the United States, but also to Homer's *Odyssey*. In 2020, *Citizen: An American Lyric*, by Claudia Rankine SOA'93, was added to students' summer reading.

"I love Literature Humanities and I love (almost!) all the works on the syllabus. Teaching the course over the last 20 years and chairing it for the last three has been my true education," Stalnaker says. "But for Lit Hum to remain vital, it must be subject to critical scrutiny. Literary canons are not set in stone: They are, and should be, sites of debate and critique. I welcome the critical energy that instructors and students alike have been bringing in recent years to the collective enterprise."

The new Core chairs will assume their roles on July 1. Kathy Eden, the Chavkin

will remain chairs for Frontiers of Science and Music Humanities, respectively.)

Jackson says the new chairs will set the intellectual agendas for their courses, mentor new instructors and graduate preceptors, and be part of a collective conversation about the overall purpose of the Core. "There's a real need for us to build bridges between these courses, so that students can see what the connections are," Jackson says. "Questions about the content of the Core, the intellectual goals and frameworks, will continue to be big questions for the new chairs as part of an ongoing consideration of how we can make the curriculum even better and more vital."

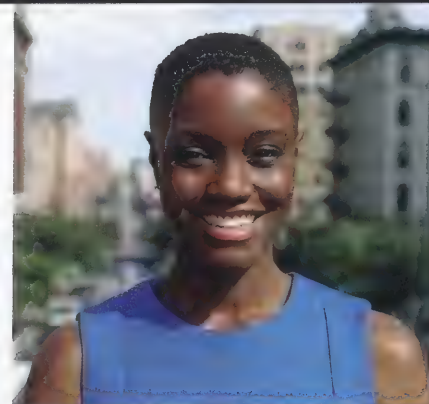
The chairs will also be involved with the Committee for the Second Century of the Core, a diverse, multi-generational group of College leaders, alumni and students. The committee has had four meetings over the last six months; Jackson expects their recommendations will be forthcoming. "We're really bringing the Core into the 21st century and drawing out what is most exciting and important about it, which is the ways in which it prepares students to think about the contemporary world," he says.

— Jill C. Shomer

LookWho'sTalking

Stephanie King

Director of Student Wellness



KILLIAN YOUNG / COLUMBIA COLLEGE

Student wellness is such a big concept. How would you define it? I'm a huge believer in Maslow's hierarchy of needs. Simply put, it states that if basic requirements like food, housing, health, safety and belonging are not satisfied, that will impede an individual's ability to attain self-actualization — things like education, passions, interests, identity. Essentially, when I think of an individual's wellness, it often results in a question: "Is school the most important and immediate concern this student has right now?" And then, if not, "What does this student need to achieve a semblance of stability, and how can Columbia's resources be helpful?"

What's a typical day for you?

There is no typical day! I could work intensely with one student and their family for a few days. I often collaborate with colleagues in advising or student conduct to provide additional, specialized support to a student. At times I'm responding to immediate crises. I support students returning from medical leaves of absence. And I'm

always welcoming to students who, at the advice of Counseling and Psychological Services or the Center for Career Education, have reached out to me. The work is dynamic, but fulfilling every day.

What's the best part of your job?

Helping students, especially those who have had a setback. It's not lost on me that completing a Columbia degree can have a significant impact on students' lives and the lives of their families. It's my goal to use every resource to help every student I meet complete their education, and in the process dispel the notion that it has to be done with no difficulty and that one's record has to look perfect.

How has your work changed to support students in this extraordinary time? Is there advice or encouragement you can share as we head into the summer?

The past year (and counting) has been challenging for everyone and in so many ways. The pandemic has also had an

incredible impact on higher education, particularly on students. We have been forced to make immediate decisions about how to continue academic operations while centering on the health and safety of students. All of us — students, families, faculty and staff — are banking on a collective understanding that we are doing the best we can. We have focused on providing a safe living community for students who need it most, while increasing access to Columbia resources around the globe. I encourage students to give themselves as much grace as possible. I encourage all students to find moments of rest and self-care.

What's one thing about you that would surprise readers?

I was a competitive track and field athlete at Cornell. Many of the lessons I learned in sports I've used in my personal life and in my work. They have taught me how to "fail" at something, how to work harder, how to be persistent, how to celebrate a competitor and how to feel satisfied with my performance even if I did not win.



JILL SHOMER

DidYouKnow?

Hamilton's Windows Are More Than a Century Old

Did you know that the stained-glass Tiffany windows in the Hamilton Hall lobby are more than 100 years old? Students have been watched over by Sophocles and Vergil since Hamilton was renovated in 2003, but the larger-than-life windows have a much longer history. The Sophocles window dates to around 1890 and was part of the Midtown campus, while the Vergil window was created in the early 1900s, after Columbia moved to Morningside Heights. The windows were in Columbia's Art Properties archive for more than 50 years, until the early 2000s, when then-College dean Austin E. Quigley rediscovered them. Due to their safe storage, the windows had almost all of their original glass and leadwork; they were restored, then installed in Hamilton for new generations of students to enjoy.



JORG MEYER

Rishi Goyal

By Alexis Boncy SOA'11

As the United States moves into its second pandemic summer, vaccine hesitancy looms as one of the biggest hurdles to achieving herd immunity from Covid-19. While the numbers are a moving target, as of late April, a CBS News Poll found that roughly four in 10 Americans were either undecided about the vaccine or refused it outright. Yet when Dr. Rishi Goyal PS'01, GSAS'10, an emergency room physician and assistant professor of emergency medicine at the Columbia University Medical Center, discusses the issue, what's most striking is the empathy he has for the reluctant.

"Public health figures often see it as obvious," Goyal says. "Get the vaccine; it's good for you, it's good for everyone. You need more information? Here's a bunch of safety stuff." But none of that moves the needle. If somebody tells you they're worried there's a microchip in the vaccine, how are you supposed to engage with the person? That's complicated. You could disrespect them or assume they don't know what they're talking about, but that's not going to get you anywhere. There has to be dialoguing that takes seriously people's concerns."

Goyal is currently spearheading a Columbia World Project aimed at understanding the reasons for — and ultimately developing custom messaging to address — Covid vaccine reluctance. Co-led by Dennis Yi Tenen, a former Microsoft engineer and an associate professor of English and

comparative literature, digital humanities and new media studies at Columbia, the project combines large-scale data science research with language analysis.

"Too many people assume that there's one way of managing all vaccine hesitancy," Goyal says. "Some people's reasons are ideological; some object on religious grounds. Others are worried about the history of racial injustice. Or safety issues and the autism argument that started in the early 20th century. But there has to be an understanding that a lot of people are being left out of the advances of modernity, and are not gaining the benefits of the modern world."

Goyal has made a career practice of considering multiple perspectives — and significantly, *other* people's perspectives — when it comes to medical matters. Collaboration and interdisciplinarity are at the heart of his Columbia World Project research; he also brings that ethos to bear as the director of medical humanities, the College's newest major. The program explores the reciprocal relationship between health and culture with a focus, he says, "on issues around social justice, marginalized communities [and] communities that have been left out of certain aspects of mainstream science because of its racist and sexist history."

The timing for the major's arrival (it earned its status in November after nine years as an academic track) isn't lost on Goyal. After more than a year spent coping with the pandemic, it's all too easy to point to examples of issues that the program

explores — from making sense of the rise in anti-Asian animus, to understanding why social factors have mattered more than biological factors when it comes to the severity of disease. "I wish we weren't living through this, but it does solidify the logic of having the major," Goyal says. "A lot of people who go into healthcare fields — not just doctors and nurses, but also people who are in pharmaceuticals, who design healthcare systems, who promote insurance plans — think about the work as technical work, but not in terms of what it really is, which is care work."

Goyal was born in Brooklyn just a few months after his parents moved from India, and he spent most of his childhood summers there. He says he's always been an avid reader (from youthful favorites like *The Phantom Tollbooth* and *Harriet the Spy*, he quickly graduated to Fitzgerald and Hemingway — "then I was off to the races"). After graduating from Dartmouth he traveled a winding path, from P&S to GSAS's Ph.D. program in English and comparative literature, and back again. "I wanted to develop my ability to think with, and through, novels," he says. "I've always found that when we engage with literary texts, we come closer to understanding our own minds, emotions and motivations, while also encountering the possibility of other minds."

Thinking through novels is precisely what he did this past spring, with his undergraduate and graduate seminar "Utopia and the Pandemic." "A Marxist critic wrote something like, 'The post-catastrophe situation is the moment for the emergence of utopia,'" Goyal says. "I wanted to take that quote seriously, to say, 'This [pandemic] was a disaster on every level. How do we use the imagination to think about undoing all of these social ills, all of these structural disparities, all of the systemic racism and misogyny, all of the colonial leftovers? Can we even reimagine a place like New York City, or any city, as potentially utopic?' And how can we turn to literary texts to inform that?"

Goyal, who says he met "the love of my life" during his medical residency, has two children: a son, 12 (currently into Tom Sawyer), and daughter, 8 (with whom he's enjoying Tove Jansson's Moomin novels). He laughs at the notion of spare time, but loves to cook and sketches a bit. He's also biking and running more these days. And, he says, "I'm always reading."

ROAR, LION, ROAR

The Lions Who Made Olympic Fencing History

By Alex Sachare '71

COLUMBIA FENCERS are no strangers to the Olympics. From the first modern Games, in Athens in 1896, to the most recent, in Rio de Janeiro in 2016, the College has had 24 fencers compete for a spot on the coveted podium; four captured medals. With the Summer Olympics scheduled to start on July 23 in Tokyo, we thought we'd take the opportunity to look back at some of the standouts who've fenced at Columbia and competed for the United States.

Samuel George Fitzhugh Townsend CC 1893, SEAS 1896: After majoring in physics, Townsend got a second degree in electrical engineering and taught that subject at Columbia until his death in 1906. Competing in the 1904 Olympics in St. Louis under the name Fitzhugh Townsend, he was a member of the U.S. team that won the silver medal in team foil competition. He also competed in individual foil but was eliminated in the first round, and in individual épée, where he finished fifth. Townsend was the first Ivy League fencer to compete in the modern Olympics.

Norman Armitage CC 1927, SEAS 1929: One of the U.S.'s most heralded fencers, Armitage learned the sport at Columbia under renowned coach James Murray, won 17 national sabre

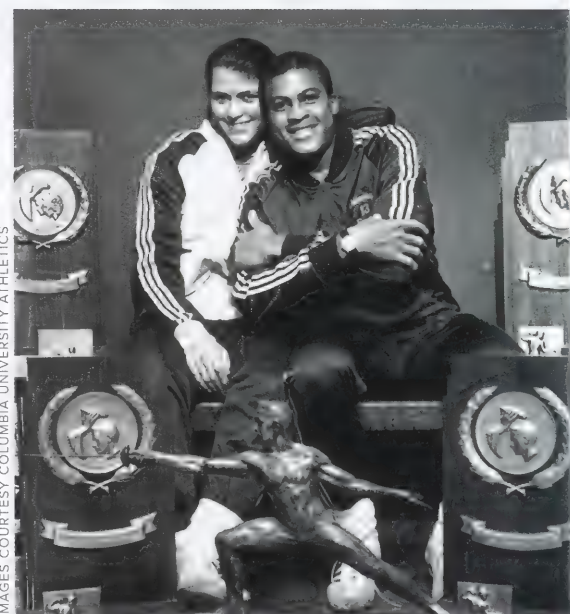


Norman Armitage CC 1927, SEAS 1929

championships and was runner-up nine times in a career that spanned more than 30 years. He competed in six Olympics from 1928 to 1956, won a bronze medal in team sabre in 1948 at London and was honored as the U.S. flag bearer in the opening ceremonies in 1948, 1952 and 1956. In 1963 Armitage was the first individual inducted into the U.S. Fencing Association Hall of Fame and in 2008 was inducted into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame.

Hugh Alessandrini CC 1929, SEAS 1931: Another athlete who learned to fence at Columbia under coach Murray, Alessandrini was a two-time U.S. foil champion and a member of seven teams that won national titles. He earned a bronze medal with the U.S. foil team in the 1932 Olympics at Los Angeles and competed for the U.S. foil team that finished fifth in the 1936 Olympics at Berlin. A chemical engineer, Alessandrini led a team that invented the electrical épée scoring device, first used in the 1936 Olympics.

Caitlin "Katy" Bilodeau '87: The top-ranked women's foil fencer in the U.S. from 1985 to 1992, Bilodeau was a four-time national champion and four-time All-American. She won the NCAA women's foil title in 1985 and 1987, becoming the first woman to capture two NCAA fencing crowns. Bilodeau competed in the 1988 Olympics at Seoul and the 1992 Olympics



Olympians Caitlin "Katy" Bilodeau '87 and Robert Cottingham Jr. '88 won myriad awards while fencing for Columbia.

at Barcelona. Among her many honors, she was named the NCAA Athlete of the Decade for the 1980s in fencing and Columbia's Athlete of the 20th Century, also for fencing. She was inducted into the U.S. Fencing Association Hall of Fame in 2002 and the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame in 2006.

Robert Cottingham Jr. '88: A four-time All-Ivy League and All-America selection in men's sabre, Cottingham won six U.S. National Championships between 1986 and 1992 and, like Bilodeau, competed for the U.S. Olympic team in 1988 and 1992. A history major, he was on the Executive Committee of the U.S. Fencing Association and was inducted to its Hall of Fame in 2015, and the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame in 2010. A native of Orange, N.J., Cottingham owns and operates Sabre88, a global

ALUMNI FENCERS IN THE OLYMPICS

**Samuel George Fitzhugh
Townsend CC 1893, SEAS 1896:**
1904 Olympics in St. Louis
(silver medal, team foil)

**Millard J. Bloomer Jr. CC 1920,
LAW 1923:** 1920 Olympics
in Antwerp

Steddiford Pitt CC 1911:
1920 Olympics in Antwerp

Harold Bloomer CC 1924:
1924 Olympics in Paris

**Norman Armitage CC 1927,
SEAS 1929:** 1928 Olympics in
Amsterdam; 1932 Olympics in Los
Angeles; 1936 Olympics in Berlin;
1948 Olympics in London (bronze
medal, team sabre; U.S. flag
bearer); 1952 Olympics in Helsinki
(U.S. flag bearer); 1956 Olympics
in Melbourne (U.S. flag bearer)

**Hugh Alessandrini CC 1929,
SEAS 1931:** 1932 Olympics in
Los Angeles (bronze medal,
team foil); 1936 Olympics in Berlin

Robert Driscoll CC 1933:
1952 Olympics in Helsinki

**Alfred Skrobisch CC 1933,
SEAS 1934, SEAS 1935:**
1952 Olympics in Helsinki;
1956 Olympics in Melbourne

James Margolis '58:
1960 Olympics in Rome

James Melcher '61: 1972 Olympics
in Munich

Tom Losonczy '75: 1976 Olympics
in Montreal; 1980 Olympics in
Moscow (U.S. team boycotted)

Joel Glucksman '70:
1984 Olympics in Los Angeles

Steve Trevor '86: 1984 Olympics
in Los Angeles; 1988 Olympics
in Seoul

Caitlin "Katy" Bilodeau '87:
1988 Olympics in Seoul;
1992 Olympics in Barcelona

Robert Cottingham Jr. '88:
1988 Olympics in Seoul;
1992 Olympics in Barcelona

Anne Marsh-Senic '94:
1992 Olympics in Barcelona;
1996 Olympics in Atlanta;
2000 Olympics in Sydney

Jed Dupree '01: 2004 Olympics
in Athens

Emily Jacobson '08:
2004 Olympics in Athens

Dan Kellner '98: 2004 Olympics
in Athens

**James Williams '07, GSAS'09,
BUS'17:** 2008 Olympics in Seoul
(silver medal, team sabre);
2012 Olympics in London

Sherif Farrag '09, GSAS'18:
2012 Olympics in London

Jeff Spear '10: 2012 Olympics
in London

Nicole Ross '13: 2012 Olympics
in London

Nzingha Prescod '15:
2012 Olympics in London;
2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro

THREE LIONS QUALIFY FOR 2021 OLYMPICS

**Jackie Dubrovich '16, Jake
Hoyle '16 and Nicole Ross '13**
will represent the Lions at the
2021 Tokyo Olympics, USA
Fencing announced at press
time. Ross, who competed in
2012 in London, will become the
11th Lions fencer to participate
in two or more Olympics.
Dubrovich and Ross qualified
to compete in women's foil and
Hoyle qualified in men's epee.

consulting firm, and in 2015 was named
by the U.S. Small Business Administration
as "New Jersey's 2015 Minority Small
Business Person of the Year."

Ann Marsh-Senic '94: Marsh-Senic
was a three-time All-American in foil
who never lost a match in her Ivy League
career, compiling a 48-0 record and
leading the Lions to two Ivy crowns. She
became Columbia's first female athlete
to appear in three Olympic Games,
competing in 1992 at Barcelona, in 1996
at Atlanta and in 2000 at Sydney. Marsh-
Senic completed medical school at the
University of Rochester while still fencing,
is an emergency physician in suburban
Detroit and assists her husband, Anatolie
Senic, in managing the Renaissance
Fencing Club in Troy, Mich.

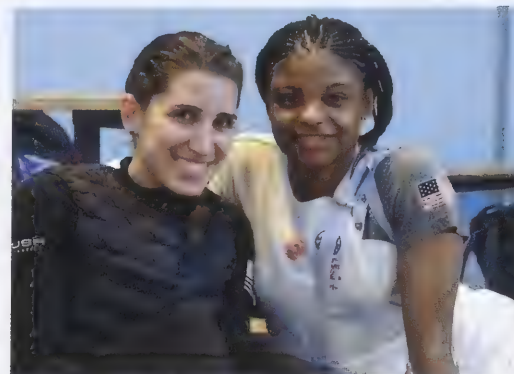
James Williams '07, GSAS'09, BUS'17:
Columbia's team captain his junior and
senior years, Williams won a silver medal
as a member of the U.S. sabre team in the
2008 Olympics at Beijing, the first medal
for an Ivy League fencer in 60 years.
Chosen as an alternate on the four-man
squad (only three compete), Williams was



James Williams '07, GSAS'09, BUS'17

inserted into the lineup for the gold medal
match against France (the U.S. team was
defeated 44-37). Williams majored in
U.S. history and concentrated in Russian
studies before earning an M.A. in Russian
and Slavic cultures from GSAS and an
M.B.A. from the Business School.

Nzingha Prescod '15: Born in Brooklyn,
the Stuyvesant H.S. graduate won a gold
medal in foil at the 2011 Junior World
Championships in Amman, climbed to the
number 1 ranking in the U.S. and competed



Nicole Ross '13 (left) and Nzingha Prescod '15
were teammates on the U.S. Olympic team in
2012 at London.

in the 2012 Olympics in London. In
2015, Prescod became the first African-
American woman to win an individual
medal at the Senior World Championships
when she captured the bronze at Moscow.
The following year she competed in the
Olympics at Rio de Janeiro, becoming the
10th Columbian to represent the U.S. in at
least two Olympiads.

Alex Sachare '71 took fencing to satisfy part of
his PE requirement and is a former sports editor
of Spectator and editor-in-chief of CCT.



In the midst of a global reckoning with the long history of anti-Black racism, the radical genius of Saidiya Hartman is sorely necessary.

Hartman, a University Professor and a scholar of African-American and American literature and cultural history, has spent much of her career exploring the ways in which slavery and its aftermath still reverberate in modern American life. She has written three acclaimed books and dozens of essays, but it's her approach that sets her apart: Employing a method she calls "critical fabulation," Hartman uses scraps of archival material to create speculative narratives that tell the stories of slaves and their descendants. From a few impersonal lines written by a slave who'd been held captive in an African dungeon, Hartman conjures the terrified boy's experience under unspeakable conditions. She imagines vibrant, immersive details about a woman seen only in shadow in a turn-of-the-century photograph, rectifying the prevailing cramped and ghettoized depictions of Black urban life after Emancipation. In this way, Hartman urges us to consider

UNIVERSITY
PROFESSOR
SAIDIYA HARTMAN
IS TELLING THE
LOST STORIES
OF BLACK
AMERICANS

RAISING VOICES

BY JILL C. SHOMER

how history is recorded and by whom, and gives voice to essential points of view that have been lost or suppressed. It's a process that Hartman says "troubles the line between history and the imagination."

Hartman's resuscitation and amplification of these stories challenge readers to consider the enduring effects of enslavement, and the ways that marginalization and violence toward Black Americans still exist in our society. (As I write this, Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin is on trial for the murder of George Floyd; 20-year-old Daunte Wright and 16-year-old Ma'Khia Bryant were killed by police not long after.)

Historian and law professor Annette Gordon-Reed thoughtfully discussed the "urgent moral dimension" of Hartman's work when reviewing her most recent book, 2019's *Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments: Intimate Histories of Riotous Black Girls, Troublesome Women, and Queer Radicals*. "Hartman's efforts to tell the history of enslaved and Black Americans seem particularly

timely as the United States reckons with the problem of systemic racism and inequality. As many people, historian or not, have asked: 'How did we get here?'"

Wayward Lives went on to win a National Book Critics Circle Award (the announcement came the day the Covid-19 pandemic shut down the city last March) and PEN's John Kenneth Galbraith Award for Non-fiction. It was the latest in a long list of accolades for Hartman: She was named a MacArthur Foundation "genius" in 2019, and has been a Guggenheim, Cullman, Fulbright, Rockefeller, Whitney Oates and University of California President's fellow. Adjectives like "tremendously gifted" and "bravura" appear in her glowing book reviews. She has been the subject of a *New Yorker* profile and has appeared in a Jay-Z music video.

Hartman, a professor of English and comparative literature, has taught at Columbia since 2007. She was named a University Professor, Columbia's highest faculty honor, in October.

Hartman reads from *Wayward Lives* at Penn's Kelly Writers House in February 2020.



KELLY WRITERS HOUSE

"[Hartman's] immersive and unflinching portraits of Black life have forever altered the ways in which we think and speak about enslavement and its invidious legacy in this country," President Lee C. Bollinger said in his announcement of her appointment. "She brings a painstaking and unrelenting focus to retrieving and telling the lost stories of the dispossessed."

In Hartman's own words: "If the ghost of slavery still haunts our present, it's because we are still looking for an exit from the prison."

When we spoke by phone in March, Hartman explained that her interest in slavery was a quest handed down to her by her maternal great-grandfather Moses Thomas.

Hartman's father was the son of Caribbean immigrants; he and his family "did not hanker after unnamed ancestors or wonder what might have been," Hartman writes in the prologue of her 2007 book *Lose Your Mother: A Journey Along the Atlantic Slave Route*. But her mother grew up in segregated Alabama, her life proscribed by Jim Crow color lines; she and her family were activists in the Montgomery bus boycott. "My family background comprises the wayward and the elite, immigrants and strivers," Hartman says.

As a child, Hartman had a basic awareness that slavery happened, though it hadn't been discussed at her Brooklyn parochial school when she was growing up in the early 1970s, or at the Black Power summer camp she attended. ("The counselors taught us to disdain property, perform the Black Power handshake and march in strict formation, but they never mentioned the Middle Passage or chattel persons," she writes.)

But slavery wasn't abstract for Hartman; it was her ancestry. When she was 12 years old, her great-grandfather took her and her brother on drives around rural Montgomery and told them stories about his mother and grandmother, Ellen and Ella, who had been slaves. Hartman was eager to know more than her Poppa remembered or wanted to share, and became "obsessed" with trying to fill in missing details.

As an undergrad at Wesleyan, Hartman dug into understanding the structures of inequality (she changed her name from Valarie to Saidiya — Swahili for "helper" — in her sophomore year to assert her African heritage). She considered a future in radical politics, but instead went to Yale for further study, and began work on a thesis examining how a history of domination, violence and subjugation had shaped Black identity.

Her Yale dissertation became her first book, *Scenes of Subjection: Terror, Slavery, and Self-Making in Nineteenth Century America* (1997); since then, Hartman has been engaged with questions about the character of historical archives, and how what is found in them can shape — and limit — the kinds of stories we can tell.

Of paramount consideration is who actually recorded the data. For example, a vast slave narrative collection assembled by the Works Progress Administration in the early 20th century includes volumes of testimony that was produced under specific conditions, often white interviewers asking former slave owners or their children about their experience of slavery.

"There's this radical asymmetry of power, but yet there's a vast trove of stories and knowledge in these narratives," Hartman says. "And I had to figure out how to navigate all of that to write a history of slavery against the grain, against the normative account and the prevailing assumptions about the life of the enslaved."

Seeking a deeper understanding of the experience of enslavement, Hartman spent a formative year in Ghana as a Fulbright scholar in 1997, doing research about the Atlantic slave trade that would become *Lose Your Mother*. As both a professor and a descendant of the enslaved, she writes, "I was desperate to reclaim the dead, that is, to reckon with the lives undone and obliterated in the making of human commodities." And yet she found next to no first-person experiences of the Middle Passage. "It was an intense encounter with archival silence," she says.

Hartman fashioned her original method of storytelling from that silence; she first described it as "critical fabulation" in her 2008 essay *Venus in Two Acts*. Using what little information she found, she constructed narratives, written in the subjunctive — "a grammatical mood that expresses doubts, wishes and possibilities" — that gave personhood to human beings who'd overwhelmingly been relegated to line items.

"The intention here isn't anything as miraculous as recovering the lives of the enslaved or redeeming the dead, but rather laboring to paint as full a picture of the lives of the captives as possible," Hartman wrote. "The loss of stories sharpens the hunger for them. So it is tempting to fill in the gaps and to provide closure where there is none."

Hartman utilized what existed in the archive but then extended it; in the wrenching chapter "The Dead Book" from *Lose Your Mother*, Hartman provides a horrific account of a young girl who was tortured and murdered on a slave ship by a British sea captain (he was tried and acquitted of the crime); she created it from only seven words that were actually written about her ("the dead negro girl," and "a sulky bitch"). Hartman pored through legal transcripts, restaging statements and conflicting testimony she'd found in an effort to create a narrative of what unfolded on the ship. "I tried to find an opening or a rupture in which the experience of this young woman might emerge," Hartman says. "It was rearranging those elements, reordering them, so they might build another kind of story."

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**"AFTER A BOOK
HAS BEEN
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IN THE WORLD,
YOU STILL
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THROUGH
ALL THAT IT
TOOK YOU TO
WRITE IT."**

Giving voice to the unheard is a radically empathetic effort, and it has had its challenges. "It was really, really difficult to work in that archive, because there is so much violence and pain and loss and atrocity," Hartman says. She did a reading of "The Dead Book" at Barnard shortly after *Lose Your Mother* was published, and was approached afterward by three elderly Black women who expressed concern for her well-being. "You know you can leave that ship, right?" one of them said.

"They were telling me this because they understood the psychic effect, the weight of having written that," Hartman says. "They were trying to lead me out and back into the world."

Hartman says she began her next book, *Wayward Lives*, as "a naïve attempt" to get some distance from that emotionally grueling project. "I was still carrying so much grief," she says. "After a book has been produced and it's out in the world, you still have to work through all that it took you to write it."

Described in *The New York Times* as "an exhilarating social history," *Wayward Lives* views the world through the eyes of young Black women in Philadelphia and New York City who were forging new ways to live freely at the beginning of the 20th century. Like the slaves of the Middle Passage, their perspectives — non-white, feminist, queer — have until now remained unconsidered: "Few, then or now, recognized young Black women as sexual modernists, radicals and anarchists, or realized that the flapper was a pale imitation of the ghetto girl," Hartman writes. "They have been

credited with nothing; they remain surplus women of no significance."

As she did in *Lose Your Mother*, Hartman creates speculative histories of real-life women from archival scraps — prejudicial notes of rent collectors; reports of vice investigators and social workers; police blotters — all of which represent these independent-minded women as a "problem." Through her warm narration (the effect is like reading a beautifully written screenplay), Hartman offers these women humanity untethered by hostile judgment and classification; in doing so she offers an alternative perspective of the early 20th century — decades she says were especially decisive in determining the course of Black futures.

Perhaps in line with her unusual presentation, *Wayward Lives* won the National Book Critics Circle Award in the category of criticism, rather than fiction or nonfiction. (It also won the College's 2020 Lionel Trilling Book Award.) And though her writing might exist in a gray area between fact and speculation, Hartman says the response has been largely respectful. "Historians feel the push and the transgression, but fortunately have still embraced the work," she says. "I think that it's been a critical and generous engagement."

Hartman's appointment as a University Professor comes at a time when artistic activism around issues of racism and marginalization is a social and cultural imperative. "Artists who are not thinking about the relationship of their work to social transformation or the posing of critical questions about our Now — those are the rare birds," she says.

Earlier in her career, Hartman says, she wanted to write more evocatively than was the norm in scholarly literature, but she was not encouraged. In a conversation with her friend the artist Arthur Jafa at Los Angeles's Hammer Museum in June 2019, Hartman spoke frankly about being marginalized in her first teaching job and being taken aback by her colleagues' low expectations of her. (But "within that space of no one taking me seriously, there was also all this space to work," she said.) So it's especially significant that she is the first Black woman to be honored with the highest rank at the University.

"I think the fact that I am the first says something about how difficult it has been for Black women in elite academies," she says. "The intellectual landscape has changed *some*, and I feel very indebted to my colleagues, who have recognized the importance of my work and have supported it — that's a huge part of what enabled this to happen." Hartman also acknowledges her appointment in the context of the global Black Lives Matter movement, "the push of all that activism that was challenging the elitism of institutions like universities, art museums, the Hollywood studio system and imperial knowledge formation," she says.

Hartman with actor André Holland at the 92nd Street Y in April 2021; Holland read Hartman's monologue, *The End of White Supremacy: An American Romance*.



NANCY CRAMPTON / 92Y



JOHN D. AND CATHERINE T. MACARTHUR FOUNDATION

One of the perks of the University Professorship is the freedom to teach in any Columbia school or department; Hartman is looking forward to exploring the intersectionality of her work at the School of the Arts, the Architecture School and even the Law School. This fall she'll teach a seminar that she says is a cross between English and philosophy; next spring she'll teach a SOA writing course called "Radical Composition," which will explore genre-defying authors and aesthetic practice affiliated with movements for social change.

"I love the classroom," Hartman says. "I love the collective journey in exploring ideas and texts. I love the space of the seminar and the intimacy of thought that's practiced there. Students have a safe space to share work, and we learn from one another."

The love is mutual: Hartman is adored by her students and admired by her colleagues. "Saidiya Hartman is our generation's most brilliant and innovative cultural theorist and cultural historian," says Farah Jasmine Griffin, chair of the Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies and the William B. Ransford Professor of English and Comparative Literature. "Her work speaks to and informs multiple disciplines, including but not limited to literature, cultural studies, history, art history and much of the social sciences. Having known her since we were graduate students, I can testify that her promise was evident even then — she had all

the hallmarks of an important and potentially groundbreaking intellectual."

Hartman is currently on sabbatical at her home in Massachusetts (along with her partner, Samuel Miller, and their teenage daughter). She says she's found it hard to work during the pandemic, especially since most archives have been closed (luckily she has archivists — "angels of the intellectual world" — who send copies of documents she needs). She's at work on a new book, part fiction, part essay, about the lives of Black women intellectuals — "some cross between *The Crisis of the Negro Intellectual* and *A Room of One's Own*," she says.

Asked whether she sees herself as a radical, Hartman is modest. She says she feels "in very great company" with creative friends and collaborators who are producing work that is engaging the pressing issues of our time. But, somewhat unsurprisingly, she also places herself — and her University Professorship — in the context of history.

"It's not *my* singular achievement that has solely opened any door," Hartman says. "There have always been capable, creative, imaginative, brilliant Black people for whom the doors were closed because of the exclusions of the social order. So I feel I have benefited from centuries and decades of struggle. The University Professorship in a way is mine and in a way it belongs to a lot of people. I'm grateful for it."



metamorphosis

me-tə-ˈmɔr-fə-səs

noun • a profound change in form from one stage to the next in the life history of an organism

*Presenting
the winners
of our first
personal
essay contest*

of Memory *and* Metamorphosis

WHEN WE BEGAN planning CCT's nonfiction writing contest last fall, we quickly decided to focus on personal essays — and just as quickly we landed on the theme: metamorphosis. You can understand how, at a time when our worlds felt radically and irrevocably altered by the Covid-19 pandemic, change was on our minds. But we wanted to create an opportunity for writers to transcend the immediate moment, and to consider not only the profound changes that the pandemic had wrought in their lives, but also the profound changes that they'd experienced throughout their entire lives. From that perspective, what would stand out as being especially transformative?

Moving forward with our theme — we knew Ovid would approve — we put out the call to alumni and students. We weren't so much seeking neat conclusions as honest attempts at reflection (it helps to remember that one definition of essay is "to try"). We were pleased to have so many writers rise to the challenge. Contributors opened up about family, race, sexuality and identity; they also mused on everyday experiences that, upon closer inspection, revealed hidden depths.

Our winners — Amanda Tien '14 and Munirat Suleiman '24 — both tell powerful personal stories. Their writing styles differ, but they share a common beauty and

bravery. And each of their essays carries extra resonance at this particular moment in our cultural and pandemic life. I'll let you read on to see why.

No account of the contest would be complete without a thank-you to our judges: Helena Andrews-Dyer '02, a *Washington Post* reporter and author of *Reclaiming Her Time: The Power of Maxine Waters*; Robert Kolker '91, a journalist and the bestselling author of *Hidden Valley Road: Inside the Mind of an American Family*, a Top Ten Book of 2020 for *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and *The Wall Street Journal*; and Miya Matsumoto Lee '18, editor of Modern Love Projects at the *Times* and co-editor of *Tiny Love Stories: True Tales of Love in 100 Words or Less*. The three gave generously of their time and brought tremendous care and sensitivity to the deliberations. They were impressed with the skills brought to the winning essays, as well as the emotion each writer conveyed.

The judges also awarded two honorable mentions, to James Vasco Rodrigues '15, SOA'20 and Abigail Peters '22. You can find those published online in our Feature Extras.

Thank you to everyone who contributed and fearlessly brought something personal to the page. As Ovid said: "Be patient and tough; one day this pain will be useful to you."

— Alexis Boncy SOA'11

Collages by Amanda Tien '14

Legally Blind

By Amanda Tien '14

One hazy August afternoon, golden sun flooding the Virginia backroads to my parents' house, I realized as I drove that I could no longer read the street signs. I pulled over and held my right palm over one eye, then the other, imitating the optometrist appointments I'd gone to for most of my life. At home, I held my shame and fear all through dinner, then pulled my mom aside and said, "I don't think I should drive anymore."

Our optometrist confirmed my vision had degraded significantly, but he didn't know why. He referred us to an ophthalmologist. We were an Army family; our insurance was limited to military facilities. The nearest one? The (in)famous, depending on who you ask, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.

My mother drove us on the Capital Beltway, a massive interchange of highway. She swiftly charted the concrete seas out of the woods of northern Virginia, bypassed the stone monument mountains of D.C. and led us to the milky waters of Maryland.

At Walter Reed, we sat on metal chairs with geometric-patterned cushions, waiting long past our appointment time. Polite, quiet soldiers sat nearby, one with dark glasses, another with a thick head bandage. My mother gripped my hand tightly. She pressed play on an iPod audiobook of *Pride and Prejudice* for me, and I remembered how much I used to love reading for fun. She flipped through a military magazine with articles about moving dogs abroad and making neighborhood casseroles.

When I entered the exam room, the young doctor stared, open-mouthed, for a few awkward moments. I clearly was not who he had expected. We did the classic

test; no, I couldn't read most of the rows. No, not better one, better two. He brought in the attending, a middle-aged woman who shined a bright penlight into my eye. It hurt, searing on a hyper channel to the back of my brain.

She asked, "Did you pour acid in your eye?"

My mom guffawed from the corner.

"Uh, no," I said, awkward and 19, "I didn't."

"Not in chem lab, or something?" he asked.

I shook my head. "I'm not in classes like that. I'm a film major." They looked at each other and didn't say anything.

Soon, the room was filled with medical students and doctors. Each one shined the same painful light in my eyes. They clustered in the hallway, whispering. I was relegated to picking up not-great phrases:

"Wow, weird."

"Her cornea, it's disintegrating." (I took AP bio, remembered enough to know this wasn't good.)

"You sure she wasn't in an acid attack? Because it looks like it could be an acid attack."

"She's in college, not a war zone in the Middle East."

"I don't know."

"He doesn't know."

"No one knows."

I went home with no answers and an appointment for a month later. I would be back at Columbia for my sophomore year by then, unless I took a health leave of absence.

I didn't want to do that. It wasn't that bad, I told myself. It would be fine. I would be fine.

I went back to school.

It was not fine.

As the weeks of fall semester passed, the omnipresent laptop screen burned more and more painfully into my retinas. My headache was constant. The smoke of New York (cigarettes outside campus buildings, blustery gusts from street vendors, a fire drifting its essence over the avenues) was unavoidable and delivered agonizing hazes. One eye worsened faster; my depth perception evaporated. I knocked over cups and cups of coffee. I did fine speaking aloud in Italian class, but when I tried to do my written homework, the language felt even more impossible to parse, my gaze shifting in and out of focus without my control. The beautiful campus I loved was shrouded; I told my mother that it was as if my eyes were becoming panes of frosted glass.

A month later, I took the Amtrak Northeast Regional to D.C. The exam was repeated. The Walter Reed doctors made one statement with assuredness: I was legally blind.

I cried in the car. My mother's voice was timid with pity. She offered to fill my new prescription at the LensCrafters in the mall — frames from the expensive section, Plexiglass-encased from us dirty-fingered plebes. The glasses themselves were a desperate rope for the sinking ship of my vision.



I envisioned being a blind filmmaker, describing scenes from my imagination. I thought about conversations on colorism I'd had in my work with ethnicity and race studies, how I would literally not see race any more. And when I considered the very real troubles of the world, near and far, I felt guilty for being sad over something as simple and precious to me as my vision.

The fear of a forever night eclipsed every day.

My academic advisor asked, "If this is the last year you can see, what do you want to do with that time?" A childhood dream flashed: novelist. There were fiction workshops at Columbia; Beginning was consistently full, Intermediate required applications. Fear always held me back. I was sure I had missed my chance at ever joining the department. I gently tucked the dream away again.

Professors were supportive. They didn't comment when I wore the eye patch I bought from Duane Reade. Disability Services gave me a computer program that turned any text into an audiobook, which felt vaguely illegal. I wondered if it was too late in the game to learn Braille.

One day, my mother got a call from Walter Reed; they wanted me to come back.

Again, I took the train, and again, my mother drove. She found small things that made our strange routine special: a kiosk on a floor frequented by nurses who smiled at me and called me pretty; lattes and muffins, banana nut for her, blueberry for me.

This time, we did not wait. This doctor was here to see *me*.

His office was thoughtfully dimmed. In the soft glow of the vision test projector, I could tell he was graying at the temples. He politely asked where I went to college. When I told him Columbia, he tsk'd, "That's not a very good school. Couldn't you have gotten in somewhere better?"

My mother and I sat in stunned silence until he lifted up a newspaper clipping on his corkboard, revealing his class photo at Cornell. We laughed.

He did not call in any colleagues. He reviewed my records, apologized every time he shined that piercing penlight. The doctor showed me a diagram of my eye, sketched out a conical shape on a piece of legal pad paper. He shared his theory: my eyes were differentiated just enough from the median shape that contacts sat unevenly, roughly wearing at the edges of what unfortunately were the rims of my cornea. This rare phenomenon was called *keratoconus*.



*“If this is
the last
year you
can see,
what do
you want
to do
with that
time?”*

“I can’t make any promises,” he said kindly. “Maybe in 10 years, if your condition stabilizes, we can get you Lasik to force-correct. But for now, your vision is still decaying. We have to fight it. I have some ideas” He inserted colorful rubber toothpicks into my tear ducts and prescribed several types of drops. “You will have to follow a regimented schedule. Can you do that?”

My mother held my hand in her lap. “Amanda is one of the hardest workers I know. She will do what she needs to do.” I felt her strength, copied and pasted it into myself.

Back at Columbia, I carefully made a color-coded map of medications, taped it to the wall of my Hartley dormitory. I set dozens of corresponding, daily alarms. Afraid of failing my doctor, my mother and myself, I took my drops religiously.

For an Italian presentation, I made bruschetta; a roommate helped cut tomatoes so I didn’t slice my fingers off. While my suitemates went to parties, I laid in bed with a compress over my eyes, listening to movies I knew by heart. I took midterms in a private Disabilities cubicle with an extra hour and a computer, because I could type better than I could print. (As a child, I had memorized the QWERTY keyboard, plunking away on the family computer, “writing my stories.”)

I went home to Virginia. On that now-familiar train ride, I realized I could see, for the first time in months, individual birds in trees.

Walter Reed was empty on Thanksgiving; even the little coffee kiosk was closed. Our doctor sat alone in the waiting room, watching the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, and cheerfully greeted us by name.

He did a vision test; better one, better two.

On his computer, he showed us imaging of my brown eyes, clicked a button that flushed them into aquatic blues and greens, revealing weaving lines that in another world could be rose vines. Scars, he said, all along your eyes, and they will be there forever.

Someday, he told me — softly, seriously — my vision could go again, glazed permanently. He was sorry for that, but was proud of the progress we had made together because, for now, with lenses, I could drive, read a blackboard, go to movies, see birds in trees. He was changing my legal vision status from blind to acceptable.

My mother cried, offered to come back with a pecan pie (hers is excellent), and he joked that would be a great trade for my vision and she threatened she really would and he blushed, said please seriously do not do that.

I returned for the spring semester with clear eyes and reflections about my remaining time at school and on Earth.

I passed all my classes. I made a video game for Contemporary Civilization that culminated in giving a friendship bracelet to Aristotle; my professor sat with me and played through it in one go. “I’m so proud of you,” she whispered. My Italian professor hugged me, encouraged me to stay in touch.

Under the pink blossoms of College Walk, I was aglow from my vision chrysalis.

I left my comfort zone and made an impromptu visit to Kent. For courage, I stopped at the Starr Library on the way up, stared past the long mahogany tables and ferns and books, and up at the stained glass depiction of Justice. Then, onward to the creative writing department. I was offered a cup of coffee by the encouraging department manager. I told her about my dreams but how intimidated I had been; did they offer summer courses? She smiled and waved her hand, as if worries were flies in the wind.

In May, I was accepted to two incredible summer internships: a film agency in Hollywood that would take me on one path, and a children’s literature office at a major publishing house in New York that offered another, alternate route. The latter meant I could take “Beginning Fiction” at Columbia and still qualify for the major. I had a choice.

I stayed in New York. Eight years later, that summer fiction professor wrote my recommendations for an M.F.A. in writing, where I am now. My loss of vision gave me the ability to see time, the most precious resource, and to see selfhood for what it was: the opportunity to choose, every day, who we want to be and what we can do to make that possible.

Amanda Tien ’14 is a writer, visual designer and marketing strategist. She is writing a novel and pursuing an M.F.A. in creative writing at the University of Pittsburgh. Previously, she worked for Camelback Ventures and Y&R Advertising, and was a 2015 Venture for America Fellow. View her work at amandatien.com.

Reflections on Innocence and Identity

By Munirat Suleiman '24

Sweltering under the Georgia sun's unwavering judgment, I quietly beg the universe for the day's events to justify my lying to my parents.

I have never been to a protest in my life.

It's a broiling June afternoon at the intersection of one of many churches, a local high school and the Snellville Towne Green, where the Black Lives Matter posters speckle the grass in front of me with stories of strife and disappointment. It's a few months into the pandemic, and my summer is already careening toward rock bottom; I'd unceremoniously graduated from high school via PowerPoint slouched on my living room couch and watched murders of Black people on social media — formerly the only safe space I had left.

The air is restless with the buzzing of flies and conversations until an older Black woman steps to the far right of the field with a megaphone; she announces the protest's route from the church's field to the sidewalk by the highway, across the street and into the town green.

A mile or so, I estimate. I anxiously wiggle my toes in the sneakers I'd switched into from the heels my mother recommended with the dress I left the house wearing.

I told my parents I was attending a job fair.

Another organizer picks up where the last one left off, her voice like a deep spiritual asking the crowd to bow their heads and pray over the well-being of the Black community. She sings a hymn I don't know and cites the Bible, something I've barely read.

There's much I didn't know before we got started, but there was something I did know: I was in my own personal hell.

I remember the first time I was condemned to hell.

It's an October morning, after Indigenous Peoples' Day, and I am on a school bus heading toward yet another day of trivial third-grade matters. The weather can't make up its mind about whether it wants to remi-

niscence about the summer or press into winter, and thus it's a still and neutral day.

I spend my time daydreaming about *Emily the Emerald Fairy*, a Rainbow Magic book about an emerald gem fairy who matches the color of my family's most valued Quran over the fireplace. Despite this simple escapism, reality seeps in from the conversation between the two white girls in front of me discussing their long weekend.

Their voices project above everything else as paper airplanes clumsily traverse the ends of the bus and the fifth-graders boss the younger kids to make space for their friends to sit together, much to the driver's chagrin.



*I only
had two
missions:
to be
invisible
and to be
successful;
one for
myself,
one for my
family,
both for
survival.*

None of their words make their way into my consciousness like the following confident statement by the taller of the two: "Well, of course! Everybody's Christian!"

Unaware of the context, but knowing this to be false, I innocently correct her by proudly interjecting, "I'm not! I'm a Muslim!"

I wish I hadn't. I already feel different enough being one of the few Black children on the bus, never mind in the entire town. It's why I resort to my books when my peers throw a quick "Blacks" or other racial slur into the air for cheap thrills.

No one would interact with me either way, and I suppose my interjecting was a self-affirmation that I existed in the real world.

Regardless, I desperately wish that I could claw the words from the atmosphere as she turns, her face wrinkling from surprise to disgust, and snaps: "You can't say that you're not Christian. If you're not, you're going to hell."

I instantly shrink into my book, shocked and embarrassed, something that the bus driver either doesn't notice in the pandemonium or doesn't care to notice. My tears drown my fantasy world until the bus reaches school. I sober up, run into the bathroom to clean my face as if I was doing *wudu*, and suffer through an intense headache brought on by crying for the rest of the day.

I've come to understand that hell is a place for sinners and "others" that society chooses, like Dante's totally unbiased allocation of different figures to the circles of hell. (I don't forget the Prophet Muhammad being in one of the worst ones.) A condemnation was just a confirmation of my hyperawareness of my differences — both the obvious and the obscure ways that I have to carry more identities my whole life long, whether it be because I'm a first-generation American, Black or Muslim.

Something I've asked myself more and more is, "How much different is hell from the world I already live in as a Black woman, where my sin is being inconvenient for society?"

Religion was hard to wrap my head around as a Muslim child and even now as an agnostic adult; but though I was young, I had more than enough knowledge to understand what that girl on the bus meant about me going to hell. Growing up from that moment, I only had two missions: to be invisible and to be successful; one for myself, one for my family, both for survival.

My childhood turned unhealthy with me hiding myself in the fear that everyone else would see that I was going to hell, that my differences were screamingly shameful.

I never forgot to wrap my hijab around my face during car rides to the masjid, to remove any native Nigerian clothing before entering school events (and have excuses ready as to why), to breathe whenever a "friend" said something racially insensitive. I never forgot to

keep track of where I said I was born, to write the list of names I'd choose for myself when I turned 18, to evade talking about my personal struggles with my parents or my friends, to predict anything and everything that could ruin my self-made facade and avoid it without exposing myself.

These were the different circles for my personal hell, one I gradually built from the hellfire society gave me.

God only knows how I never forgot.

The older I became, the more my goals opposed each other as I stopped believing in respectability. Sure, I was academically successful, devoid of a personality as I intended — but I was miserable above all else, and exhausted with the facades I'd worn since childhood. It was ironic that I wanted to be invisible, yet who I was would never permit me that privilege, no matter how hard I tried.

I let go of certain mental weights during high school. And as I would later come to terms with, I would have to be visible if I wanted to change my sentencing in life.

Like our convictions, it feels like the sun is growing tenfold, and I can't help but wonder if this is what it is to actually live within yourself. The black top I'm wearing doesn't help matters; the BLM protest organizers advised us to wear loose black clothing to make our bodies harder to identify, if necessary.

I try to compose myself as the group climbs up a hill and then onto the sidewalk by the highway to cross the streets to the green. The highway is eerily empty, but there are some honks of support every few minutes.

Strangely, the weather takes on a stillness similar to the one I'd experienced a decade prior, with the sky darkening like the face that looked me in the eyes that fall.

Rain clouds crowd around, taunting us to retreat, when a volunteer screams, "There was always a chance of rain, but our *voices*, our *identities*, our *lives* will be seen rain or shine."

Most everyone had umbrellas at the ready.

I forgot to check the weather forecast.

I begin to mentally rehearse excuses for my parents.

We fill the town green, chanting "Say her name!" "Breonna Taylor!" "What's his name?" "George Floyd!" and forging a circle before kneeling for eight minutes of silence. In this silence, the sky can't hold on to the pain any longer; it rains like the collective tears on the faces of Black Americans forced to rewatch crimes against their humanity. The details make me dizzy as we rise up and congregate for speeches.

I remain in the moment before hearing a jeer: "Go home or go to hell!"

The headache from a decade ago returns from beyond the grave of my childhood innocence, but this time I face a choice.

I like to think that the girl from third grade didn't understand what she was saying. That she was merely



repeating something she had learned from church or her parents, sentiments that developed after 9-11, right before we were born. She had innocence if not ignorance, and probably still does.

But what happened to my innocence? The innocence that society is desperate to rip from Black children before they're even preteens, the innocence taken the minute someone realizes that the world is not built for them to succeed, the innocence taken from me?

Could I have lived a more honest and free childhood?

Over the next few hours, powerful memories and speeches are shared, and the City Council issues a proclamation of racial equality.

I ask myself: "Where do we go from here?"

"Before I Let Go" blasts from speakers as people dance at the protest's end and the sky reopens to us. There's a rainbow over our fists, stretching from the green, over the church and the high school.

I drive with a high school friend to a grocery store and wander the aisles before talking over ice cream

from our separate cars, for social distancing's sake.

I wish that life had a similar narratively beautiful reconciliation, a nice rainbow at the end. With the sunset beginning, I pause and consider putting the outfit I'd worn leaving the house back on, going home without a trace as to where I'd been, or driving aimlessly around the parking lot to burn time.

I decide, however, to leave those clothes on the passenger seat and take the highway straight home.

Munirat Suleiman '24 (*she/her*) *hopes to study English or sociology with a concentration in human rights. Hailing from a small town an hour from Atlanta, she loves nurturing intimate communities through service and storytelling. If she isn't writing, she can be found daydreaming to her favorite songs or sharing personal philosophies in parking lots.*

Honor Roll

Read two more essays we loved, by James Vasco Rodrigues '15, SOA'20 and Abigail Peters '22: college.columbia.edu/cct/latest/feature-extras/essays.

ALONGLASTNAME
A
ALONGLASTNAME

**I DID NOT
MAKE
YOU SICK**

istillbelieve.nyc

“THIS IS OUR HOME TOO”

BY ALEXIS BONCY SOA'11

LAST AUGUST, when Amanda Phingbodhipakkiya '10 became the public artist in residence for the New York City Commission on Human Rights, she knew she wanted to address the anti-Asian discrimination that had been unleashed by the Covid-19 pandemic. At that time, the increase hadn't yet garnered much attention from the media, but reports were quietly proliferating. Phingbodhipakkiya herself had been hassled on the subway, and her parents, who live in Atlanta, had been yelled at in a grocery store to go back where they came from.

Phingbodhipakkiya's partners at the commission quickly collected statistics that galvanized her: From February through July 2020, it had received 184 reports of anti-Asian discrimination, harassment and bias — a sevenfold increase from the prior year. They also provided her with a residency schedule that baffled her. By their timeline, she would have spent several more months in a research phase, defining what her creative project would entail.

“I think perhaps they thought [having the structure] would be helpful, and I understand that,” Phingbodhipakkiya says. “But I've never been one for the straight path. I definitely felt like I don't need permission — and I don't need to wait to create work for my community when we most need it.”

Less than three months later, on Election Day, Phingbodhipakkiya's anti-hate art campaign “I Still Believe in Our City” was unveiled at Atlantic Terminal in Brooklyn. The installation took over the sprawling transit hub — 45 posters and larger-scale banners, drenched in vibrant color, that both raised awareness and affirmed belonging.



Meet the artist
behind NYC's
notable **ANTI-
HATE** campaign



"I think many ASIAN AMERICANS are having an awakening in terms of the racism that they have faced for many, many years."



Bold and beautiful:
Adapted work
from "I Still Believe
In Our City"
adorned Lincoln
Center (above)
and made the
cover of *TIME*.

Some works employed hate speech ("go back," "your fault") while others demanded action ("abolish brutality," "enact justice"). They included startling accounts of and statistics about anti-Asian bias incidents. And perhaps most arresting, they featured brightly hued portraits of Asian and Pacific Islander New Yorkers, paired with proud and defiant messages: "I did not make you sick." "I am not your scapegoat." "This is our home too." Some of the portraits — including a flagship banner that emblazoned the exterior of the terminal — showed Asian Americans alongside African Americans, a deliberate signal of solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement.

Phingbodhipakkiya says the campaign was largely about reclaiming space. "Despite everything that has happened to us as Asian Americans and as New Yorkers, we're still here, fighting every day for our shared future," she says.

"I think it is important to acknowledge that it is a *shared* future," she adds. "We are often so focused on fighting our own battles we forget that sometimes we are fighting the same battle. Much of 'I Still Believe' is about reaffirming our belief in this city to support us, and its citizens to support each other, and in our collective ability to make change for a more just world."

The rich palette is key to the campaign's power: orchid purple and flamingo pink; golden yellow; electric orange; teal, sky and royal blues. Phingbodhipakkiya drew the colors from Thai and Indonesian culture, both part of her heritage. But she also chose them because of her belief in the power of color to spark joy: "I think the simplest act of resistance, which doesn't even require external effort on our parts, is to be able to have joy in times that are so incredibly challenging for our communities," she says.

Elements of "I Still Believe" have since rotated to bus shelters and other public spaces throughout NYC. Phingbodhipakkiya also licensed the portraits for public use at rallies and protests. ("They're like guardians; they help folks see their mothers and grandmothers and daughters and sisters," she says, noting in the next breath the prevalence of violence against women.) In March, in the aftermath of the shootings of six Asian-American women at a massage parlor in Atlanta, *TIME* selected one of the portraits for its cover.

Phingbodhipakkiya says she is proud to have been part of *TIME*'s response, adding that the request was unexpected. "From the time they reached out to me to the time we had to send things to print was three or four hours, something absolutely insane," Phingbodhipakkiya says. "But an Asian-American photo editor really fought for this work to be on the cover." The woman in the portrait, which Phingbodhipakkiya titled "With Softness and Power," is surrounded by flowers: peonies for solidarity and friendship; chrysanthemums for resilience (mums can bloom in the cold); and hawthorn berry for longevity and protection. "In





these times we don't need things that are dark," she says. "We already feel the darkness.

"I think many Asian Americans are having an awakening in terms of the racism that they have faced for many, many years — 'I have been taking this for so long and I didn't even fully realize.' We're all finally feeling all the weight."

PHINGBODHIPAKKIYA is a multidisciplinary artist and works in a range of mediums, from large-scale murals and public art campaigns to 3D printing and augmented reality. The through line comes from her desire, as she says, to make the invisible visible — "that may be microscopic worlds or outer space, or the often-unseen struggles of communities of color."

If her juxtaposition of science and social justice seems surprising, it might help to know that Phingbodhipakkiya came to art by way of neuroscience. She was on a pre-med track at the College, majoring in neuroscience and behavior. (Even earlier, she was a classically trained ballerina; before an injury freshman year she was auditioning for contemporary ballet companies.) Then Phingbodhipakkiya had an aha moment; a few years into her job at an Alzheimer's research lab at the Columbia University Medical Center, a research participant asked what he could tell his family about their project. "I remember grasping for the words to share this incredible work we were doing," she says. "I just handed him our very dense paper, and then immediately felt terrible about it." The experience moved Phingbodhipakkiya to begin thinking about how to better tell sto-



From top:
Atlantic Terminal
in Brooklyn;
icons for a
movement.

In her art,
Phingbodhipakkiya
aims to
make the
INVISIBLE
visible.



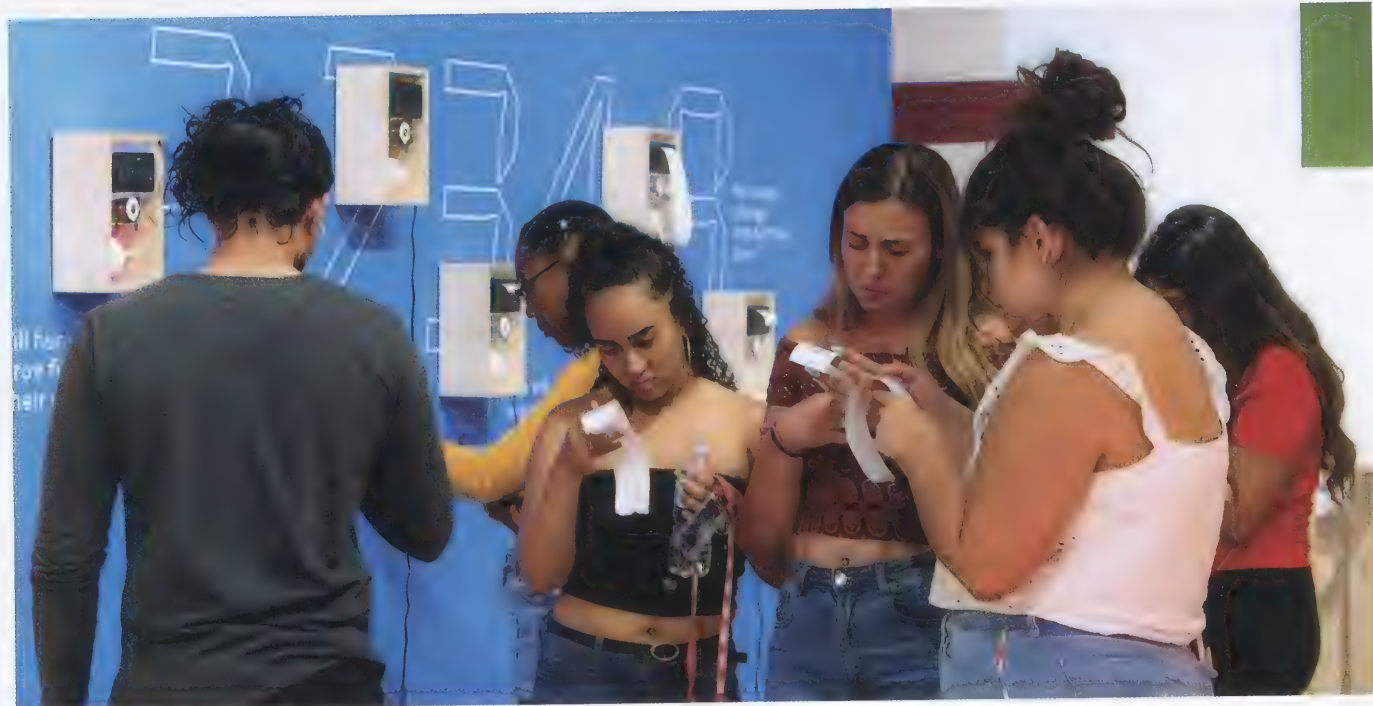
Connective Tissue's interactive exhibits called on museum-goers to work together.

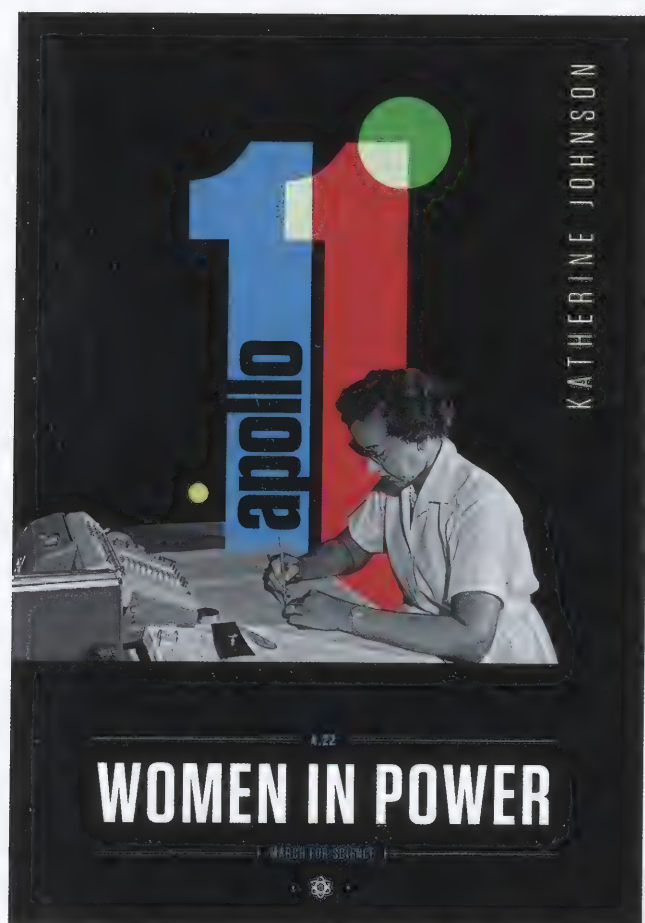
ries for science; she enrolled in a communications design program at Pratt, and in 2015 earned an M.F.A.

Much of Phingbodhipakkiya's work since then reflects her advocacy. Through a TED Residency she founded The Leading Strand, which pairs scientists and artists to translate research in visually compelling ways. She created ATOMIC by Design, a clothing line and online community that encourages girls to "wear your smarts on your sleeve" (the bold designs are inspired by the elements of the periodic table). And her first large-scale solo show, which opened at Las Vegas's Marjorie Barrick Museum of Art in September 2019, used scientific phenomena to explore human experience; the interactive exhibition was aptly called *Connective Tissue*.

Among Phingbodhipakkiya's most significant projects is *Beyond Curie*, a visual celebration of "badass women" in STEM that she created in part to establish a set of role models for kids. The vivid posters (40 and counting) combine graphics with portraits of women whom, admittedly, you might not have heard of: Lisa Ng, a groundbreaking virologist; Mae Jemison, the first Black woman in space. But these pioneers' unsung nature is the point. "I looked around and, a little bit shamefully, realized I didn't know too many women scientists beyond notables like Marie Curie," Phingbodhipakkiya says. "There are so many other women, especially women of color, who have driven our society forward but have been just written out or left out of history."

Beyond Curie won a *Fast Company* Innovation by Design Award and was promoted for use by the March for Science in 2017. ("It was the first time somebody had carried my work at a protest," Phingbodhipakkiya recalls. "I met a Ph.D. student who had bedazzled my Rosalind Franklin poster with jewels, ruffles, everything — it was amazing.") In March 2018, the North Carolina Museum of Sciences dedicated an entire wing to showcasing the works; the exhibition only closed at the end of 2020.





Speaking to *CCT* in mid-March, Phingbodhipakkiya had just delivered a new installation, “We Are More,” set for display on digital billboards throughout Times Square for Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in May. She also adapted a portrait from “I Still Believe” to adorn a Lincoln Center banner for that same period.

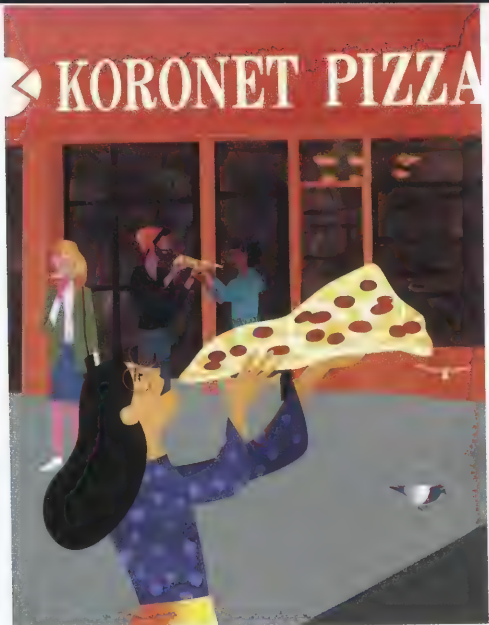
Phingbodhipakkiya doesn’t shy from speaking to the intensely personal aspects of her more recent work.

“It’s like all the collective microaggressions and the racism that I experienced in the course of my life were dammed up inside of me,” she says. “And in the creation of this work, the dam just broke — waves of anger and grief and pain. I think this experience is very much shared by many Asian Americans, where we kept it inside to survive but now we are being given permission to feel. To be fully human.

“My hope is that with my art, I help people connect to their own humanity and then start to empathize with others,” she says. “Public art can very much build connection when there’s seemingly no connection, and I think the power of portraiture and depicting faces — it’s not just representation. The complex combination of emotions on a face allow so many different access points. Wherever you are in your day or your journey of awakening, you can connect to some part of it. Maybe it’s the woman’s hopeful eyes, maybe it’s her defiant mouth. Some part of it will speak to you.”

Designs from
Beyond Curie
were used
in posters for
2017’s March
for Science.





KORONET PIZZA

Broadway between 110th and 111th Streets

With its tomato-red storefront and unassuming interior, Koronet Pizza may look like an everyday pizza joint, but Columbians know better. This is a shop that trades in slices of epic proportion, colossal triangles of cheesy-greasy deliciousness that could more rightly be described as slabs. (The pies measure up to a whopping 32 inches across.) Koronet has always seemed custom made for its most frequent clientele: students looking to feed the hunger that hits after a long night out. Walking back to campus on Broadway, the overlit interior shines like a beacon and the smell of just-out-of-the-oven pizza overpowers all other senses. The quality might be a source of debate, but that's beside the point; in those moments, Koronet delivers salvation. As for the price, a jumbo slice has ticked up over the years — from 75 cents to today's \$5.25 — but in the end it's always a bargain.

THE PLACES YOU CALLED YOUR OWN

Illustrations by Nick Lu

*In honor of
Columbia Reunion,
we rounded up
your most nostalgic
noshes and
hallowed hangouts*

THE HUNGARIAN PASTRY SHOP

*Amsterdam between
110th and 111th Streets*

The Hungarian Pastry Shop is that rare spot where the dreamy fantasy of college life meets reality. And in a city that changes so frequently, the shop's unvarying nature is one of its charms: affable, intellectual, bohemian, inviting. Generations of Columbians know its red-and-white striped awning and colorful outside murals. Inside, the aroma of coffee hangs in the air, and the pastry case beckons with flaky and fruit-filled old-world delights. "Hungarian" cultivates a deliberate disconnectedness; the space is dim and cozy, and there's no Wi-Fi. Students can be quietly social or quietly quiet, reading or studying for hours on end. A wall of book covers pays tribute to the many writers who've called themselves regulars. The shop marks its 60th anniversary this year — it's both an NYC and a neighborhood institution — but age is just a number; it long ago became timeless.





THE WEST END

*Broadway between
113th and 114th Streets*

Everyone knows there was a bar at Columbia called The West End. Its history verges on legend, the place where Beat Generation brothers Jack Kerouac '44 and Allen Ginsberg '48 talked, drank and wrote late into the night. Jazz greats like Dizzy Gillespie played there when it hosted live music. And the leaders of the Spring '68 protests made their plans in the back room. But though an aura of romance hung in the air, The West End's day-to-day reputation was as a place to relax and unwind. You could do a crossword puzzle or play pinball while drinking a beer, and because it welcomed students from all walks of campus life, you were liable to come in anytime and find someone you knew. The West End opened in 1911 and closed for the first time in 1988; several iterations tried to keep the spirit alive, until its final last call in 2014.

MOON PALACE

*Broadway between
111th and 112th Streets*

The allure of Moon Palace, a 26-year Broadway fixture, didn't come from any conventional notions of good atmosphere. The inside of the workaday Chinese restaurant was plain and dark, and the Shanghai menu is as likely to elicit memories of blandness as of excellence and genuine flavors. (It was in fact authentic, and cooked by the same chef for its entire run.) But what Moon Palace offered was a place to feel at home, where the food was inexpensive and plentiful, and the waiters treated you like family. Regulars were gifted the prized cabbage appetizer, an off-menu secret, and after eating you could linger for hours.

The restaurant was a favorite of both students and faculty, and often saw the two sharing a table.

Paul Auster '69, GSAS'70 borrowed the poetic name for his 1989 novel, a prescient tribute for a landmark that closed just two years later.

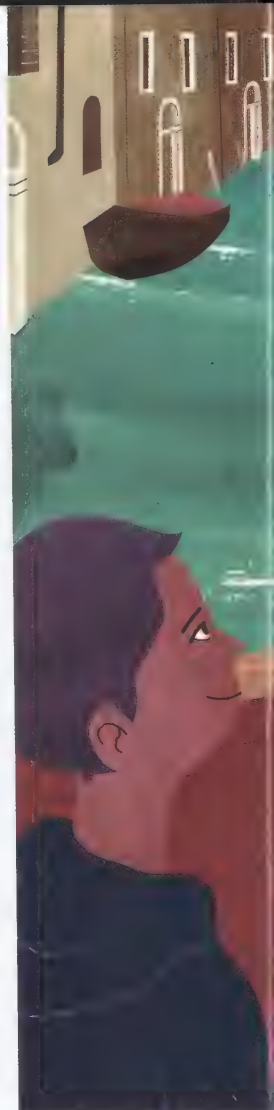




MAMA JOY'S

Broadway at 113th Street

For the uninitiated, Mama Joy's stood for nearly five decades where Milano Market is now. It occupied half of Milano's space — a tiny, four-aisle deli of fancy cheeses and beer, and made-to-order sandwiches that had the students lining up at lunch. (Alumni can attest, the roast beef was swoon-worthy.) The ingredients were fresh, and notably, all the food was cooked and prepared in-house. The magic behind the counter came courtesy of Lillian Estrin, the matriarch of the Russian immigrant family that opened the shop in 1954. They inherited their signage from the prior tenants and could only afford to change the "a" in the original name, "Jay's Self-Service." Over time Estrin became "Mama Joy" to her customers, and the family eventually changed the shop's name to match. When it closed in 2000, *The New York Times* sent a reporter; the Columbia community knew it had lost an institution.



SYMPOSIUM

*113th Street between
Broadway and Amsterdam*

These days, Symposium feels easy to overlook. The restaurant is less trafficked than it used to be and feels a world apart from — well, everything. But walk down 113th Street, under the blue awning and a few steps down, and you'll find a brick-walled enclave that has earned its lengthy neighborhood stay. For many College alums, it's where they first tried authentic Greek food. And its philosophy, as Plato would appreciate, is in its name: to be a place for eating, drinking and lively conversation. (The waiters have been told never to take away a plate or deliver a check until asked.)

Symposium was founded by Yanni Posnakoff, an artist from Thessaloniki, Greece, in 1969; his distinctive work still adorns the menu and walls. Obsessed with angels, Posnakoff vowed to paint 100,000 in his lifetime. You can also spot one outside The Hungarian Pastry Shop, which he once jointly owned.



V&T RESTAURANT & PIZZERIA

*Amsterdam between
110th and 111th Streets*

V&T or Koronet? The question is often up for neighborhood foodie debate, but there's room for more than one slice-slinging mainstay — and clearly each has its place. Founded in 1945, V&T is the venerable elder statesman. Generations of CC-ers know it as the place they went for a *sit-down* meal — maybe pizza (eggplant was king!), but maybe chicken parmigiana or penne alla vodka, or whatever classic Italian fare caught their fancy. The restaurant was perfect for dates and celebrations and everything in between; no matter how many people were in your party, there was always a table that fit. Brothers and bakers Vincent and Tony Curcurato opened V&T shortly after returning from WWII. The decor has changed over the years, but the gondolier on the menu's cover still sings of Venice. Returning alums have been heard to say the pizza doesn't taste *quite* as good as they remember; but no matter. They'll always have the memories.



TOM'S RESTAURANT

Broadway at 112th Street

Seinfeld fans snap photos outside and Suzanne Vega BC'81 immortalized it in song, but for College students, Tom's is simply their neighborhood diner. The same Greek-American family has presided at the cash register since the 1940s, with a staff that mothers or jokes around with you depending on the day. The atmosphere is decidedly no-fuss, made for regulars who know their order without opening the menu. Tom's serves the kind of comfort food that undergrads consume in spades: cheese fries, Broadway shakes, eggs any way you like them. And in its everyday-ness, it manages to suit almost every occasion, a place to satisfy late-night cravings, to study (or to feed a weary soul when the studying is done), to take a first date or to nurse the first-year blues. Alums speak fondly of the "fortress of affection" that was longtime waitress Betty Gillespie, and of the Tom's badge of honor: when a waiter tells the cook, "Make it nice!"



A “Particularly Resonant” Collection

Danielle Evans '04's latest set of stories was a decade in the making

In March 2020, **Danielle Evans '04's** second book, *The Office of Historical Corrections* (Riverhead Books, \$27), had already been sent to the publisher and was due to come out in a matter of months. Evans was anticipating the same champagne thrill that came from the publication of her first book, 2011's *Before You Suffocate Your Own Fool Self*—the catharsis of emerging from the solitude of writing to become, Evans says, “a very public person.” Instead, after she'd made her way home to Baltimore from a giddily social writers' conference, the country closed down. The book she had worked on for a decade would now be published into the silence of the pandemic.

The grief that many Americans were feeling was compounded for Evans by the recent loss of her beloved mother, Dawn Valore Martin BC'78, a tenacious civil rights lawyer who died of cancer in 2017. In the silence

of her apartment, Evans mourned the absence of “the only person in my life who would have refused to leave me alone.” She wrote that there was an additional sadness that came from seeing Covid-19's outsized impact on the Black community, especially “how many of the early faces of the dead [were] Black women my mother's age.”

The Office of Historical Corrections was finally published in November. It took more risks with style

and subject than her first book, which had earned her a place in the National Book Foundation's “5 Under 35”; Evans calls it “weirder.” The evolution clearly worked for reviewers: There were long raves from *The New Yorker* (“an extraordinary new collection”) and *The Washington Post* (“magnificent, searing”). *The Office's* six stories and a long novella, grouped around the dual themes of grieving and “trying to make things right,” were exactly in tune

with the nation's focus on issues of racial justice. *The New York Times* commented that Evans's “sensitivity to issues of race and power feel particularly resonant in 2020.” In April, she was awarded the 2021 Joyce Carol Oates Prize.

Evans was a double-major in anthropology and African-American studies, and she took creative writing courses, working on short fiction. Now an assistant professor in Johns Hopkins's prestigious creative writing program, (“the fanciest of the series of schools I've taught at”), Evans says she appreciates having had the chance to learn about the process of revision from Black professors like Victor LaValle SOA'98 and Mat Johnson SOA'99. Almost a third of the stories in her first book originated at the College.

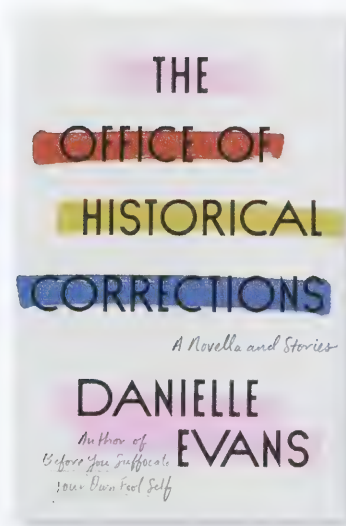
Evans says that short stories will always be her first love. She values their compression and complexity, and she likes that they permit her to “shape-shift” and assume new viewpoints at will. The form also allows her to avoid giving readers simple answers to the complicated questions she wants to pose. While she still finds cause for both the hope and the anger that thread through her stories, she says, “I am trying to imagine an After that looks better than the Before.”

The best example of Evans's particular mixture of hot-button concerns and deeply felt emotion is the collection's powerful title novella, “The Office of Historical Corrections,” excerpted here. Cassie, a former history professor, is a field worker for the Institute for Public History, a fictitious but all-too-relevant agency with the mission of correcting factual mistakes in the wake of “fake news.” As she becomes embroiled in an ever-more complex case involving “passing” and white supremacy, she is forced to reflect on “the daily trauma of the historical record, the sometimes brutality and sometimes banality of anti-Blackness, the loop of history that was always a noose if you looked at it long enough.”

—Rose Kernochan BC'82



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The Office of Historical Corrections

Our office was tucked away in a back corridor of one of the city's labyrinth brutalist buildings, all beige concrete and rows of square windows. I had never minded DC's lingering architecture; I had been in college before I understood I was meant to find it ugly and not cozily utilitarian. But I had grown up with the architecture, grown up idealizing people who worked in buildings like mine, and besides, I liked to remember that the term *brutalism* came not from any aesthetic assessment, but from the French for "raw concrete." Since starting at the institute, I had formally corrected mistaken claims about the term's etymology seven times. Small corrections usually made me feel pitiful and pedantic, but I liked making that one, liked to think of us, not just the people in my office, but all of the city's remaining civil servants, as people trying to make something solid out of what raw material we had been given, liked to think that we were in the right setting to do our jobs.

Of course, as a field agent, I rarely spent a full day indoors. Often that freedom felt like a luxury, but it was June — not quite the worst of summer, but hot enough that walking my regular daily rounds left me flecked with sweat and constantly looking for excuses to go indoors. Some days I went into shops full of kitsch and corrected souvenirs with their dates wrong just to absorb the air-conditioning. After everything else, I would remember how often I had been bored at the beginning of that summer, how worried I was that our work had become

inconsequential, how I had wondered whether I would ever again be a part of anything that mattered.

The vision for the Institute for Public History that summoned me from my former job as a history professor at GW had been grandiose. An ambitious freshman congresswoman demanded funding to put a public historian in every zip code in the country, a correction for what she called the contemporary crisis of truth. It was pitched as a new public works project for the intellectual class, so many of us lately busy driving cars and delivering groceries and completing tasks on demand to make ends meet. Government jobs would put all those degrees to work and be comparatively lucrative. The congresswoman envisioned a national network of fact-checkers and historians, a friendly citizen army devoted to making the truth so accessible and appealing it could not be ignored. We had started as a research institute, loosely under the direction of the Library of Congress — an NIH for a different sort of public health crisis. We were the solution for decades of bad information and bad faith use of it. Our work was to protect the historical record, not to pick fights (guideline 1) or correct people's readings of current news (guideline 2).

The post-election energy that created us had stalled almost immediately; the former congresswoman was now a TV pundit. At the institute, we were only forty people total, twenty of us headquartered in DC. The reduced parameters of our mission often led people to assume we were overzealous tour guides or long-winded museum employees who had strayed from our home base. Some of my colleagues leaned into the misunderstanding: Bill circled monuments correcting tourists with their facts mixed up, sometimes just by reading them the placards they'd walked by; Sophie rarely worked beyond the Smithsonian grounds; Ed

hung out in breweries all day, but he checked in each week with such a lengthy log of plausible corrections no one was sure whether he was a friendly and efficient drunk or a gifted writer of fictional dialogue.

I had been at IPH for four years then, and I wanted to take my charge seriously. To keep from falling into routine, I assigned myself a different DC neighborhood each month. For June, I was in Capitol Hill, where shortly after correcting a tourist who thought the Rayburn Building was named after Gene Rayburn, I realized it was lunchtime. The block surrounding me was cluttered with restaurants that had puns for names and sold expensive comfort food from ostentatiously nostalgic chrome countertops; it all felt sinister and I had settled on pizza when I walked past a bakery, its pink awning reading CAKE EVERYDAY COUNT in loopy cursive that mimicked frosting. I hated the name — the attempt at a double entendre failing to properly be even a single entendre — but it was Daniel's birthday, and I caught the towering cupcake trees in the window display, heaps of red and cocoa and gold. Cupcakes would seem light and full of options, I thought, and so I walked in and considered flavors before deciding cupcakes were wrong, a variety of cupcakes would say I was a child who could not make up her mind, or else invite him to imagine the opposite — me fully domesticated and walking triumphantly into a PTA meeting, as if that were the future I was waiting for him to offer me. I walked farther down the counter, past the wedding cakes, and the photorealistic DC landmark cakes, and the cakes carved into shoes and champagne bottles and cartoons, looking for something unobtrusive.

The correction was so minor that four-years-ago-me would have decided it wasn't worth it. A display cake read JUNETEENTH! in red frosting, surrounded by red, white, and blue stars and fireworks. A flyer taped to the counter above it encouraged patrons to consider ordering a Juneteenth cake early: *We all know about the Fourth of July! the flyer said. But why not start celebrating freedom a few weeks early and observe the anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation! Say it with cake!* One of the two young women behind the bakery counter was Black, but I could guess the bakery's owner wasn't. The neighborhood, the prices, the twee acoustic music drifting out of sleek speakers: I knew all of the song's words, but everything about the space said who it was for. My memories of celebrating Juneteenth in DC were my parents taking me to someone's backyard BBQ, eating banana pudding and peach cobbler and strawberry cake made with Jell-O mix; at not one of them had I seen a seventy-five-dollar bakery cake that could be carved into the shape of a designer handbag for an additional fee. The flyer's sales pitch — so much hanging on that *We all know* — was targeted not to the people who'd celebrated Juneteenth all along but to office managers who'd feel hectored into not missing a Black holiday or who just wanted an excuse for miscellaneous dessert.

"Excuse me," I said, my finger still resting on the countertop above the flyer. The young Black woman turned around.

"You want that cake?" she asked.

"No," I said. "Hi. I'm Cassie. I'm with the Institute for Public History."

The white woman turned around, but both women looked at me without registering that the name meant anything.

"It's not a big deal," I said. "We don't give orders or anything. We're a public service. Like 311! But I thought you'd like to know that this flyer's not quite correct. The Emancipation Proclamation was issued in September 1862. Juneteenth is celebrated nationally because it's become a holiday for the whole diaspora, but it actually recognizes the date slaves in Texas learned they were free, which was in June 1865, after the end of the Civil War."

"Mmkay," said the white woman.

"I'm just going to leave a note. A tiny correction."

I pulled out a corrections sticker — double holographed and printed, at considerable expense, with a raised seal; though easily mocked they were almost never properly duplicated. I typed the correction into the office's one futuristic indulgence — the handheld printers we'd all been issued when we were first hired — and ran a sticker through it to print my text. I signed my name and the date, peeled it from its backing, and affixed it to the counter beside the flyer.

"There," I said. "No biggie."

I smiled and met both women's eyes. We were not supposed to be aggressive in demanding people's time — correct the misinformation as swiftly and politely as possible (guideline 3) — but we were supposed to make it clear we were available for further inquiry or a longer conversation if anyone wanted to know more (guideline 5). We were supposed to be prepared to cite our sources (guideline 7).

"You gonna buy a cake?" said the Black woman. "Or you came in about the flyer?"

"Oh," I said. "Yes. I'm kind of dating someone and it's his birthday. I was trying to decide what kind of cake would be best. Or I don't know, maybe cupcakes are better. Do you have any favorites?"

"Ma'am, if you show up for your man's birthday with you and a cake and he complains about it, you're not even kind of dating him anymore. It doesn't matter the kind of cake."

"You're right," I said. "Give me that one."

I pointed at something labeled BLACKOUT CAKE. "Like an Oreo cookie without the cream" said the description. I could tell Daniel I had bought him the blackest cake in the store.

From THE OFFICE OF HISTORICAL CORRECTIONS by Danielle Evans, published by Riverhead, an imprint of Penguin Publishing Group, a division of Penguin Random House, LLC. Copyright © 2020 by Danielle Evans.



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New Yorker cartoonist Edward Koren '57 depicts our post-vaccination world.

Taking Pride in How We've Thrived

As this letter is being written, preparations are under way for Columbia College Class Day and University Commencement, two ceremonies that together will cap the academic year for the extraordinary Class of 2021. These soon-to-be-graduates experienced a junior and senior year unlike any other: They navigated classes remotely; learned to connect virtually with friends, professors and mentors; and rose to meet the personal challenges, large and small, that came with the difficult experience of attending college during a pandemic. All of us at the Columbia College Alumni Association (CCAA) stand in admiration of their resilience and collective achievement; we extend our congratulations and wish them well in their next chapters.

By many measures, this has been one of the most difficult years for Columbia and indeed, for so many of us. Despite the challenges, however, we have come away with lessons for living, discovered inner resources that made us stronger and developed closer relationships with those near and far. The College community rallied to continue learning, support each other and even have some fun. Here are just a few examples of the strength, resilience and vibrancy of our community.

Meeting Future Lions

Alumni Representative Committee members interviewed prospective students entirely virtually this year, and completed 7 percent more interviews than the previous year. All told, more than 1,200 alumni served as ambassadors, and because of the virtual modality, interviewers reached more prospective students, in all corners of the globe, than ever.



A scene from the 2020 Black Student Summer Sendoff.

Creating Spaces for Conversation

Issues of diversity, equity and inclusion came to the fore over the last year, and these topics became an even more important throughline in the CCAA's activities. A series of AlumniTALK forums were offered so participants could discuss issues around race, inequality and social justice in a safe environment with fellow alumni and expert speakers. Throughout the year, we engaged hundreds of alumni in these events and facilitated important conversations around race and the presidential election; race and the workplace; and the evolution of Black studies at Columbia.

Transforming Traditions

Homecoming this year was virtual, but we still celebrated the College, reconnected with classmates and friends, and found ways to have fun. Reunion 2021 is similarly set to be virtual, across the two-week period from May 24 to June 4; by the time you read this, many of you will have participated. Events included faculty and alumni lectures, campus tours, discussions with students, a wine tasting, a campus art tour and a student jazz performance.

Connecting Alumni with Students

This past year close to 1,000 one-to-one mentoring matches were made through the Odyssey Mentoring Program (odyssey.college.columbia.edu). Alumni and students met virtually to discuss student aspirations, foster a meaningful connection for career help and simply connect with a friendly face during a difficult year.

CCAA Lends a Hand

Students clearly had a challenging experience, but they demonstrated an amazing perseverance and a strong commitment to each other. The CCAA held virtual Summer Sendoffs to welcome the Class of 2024. It also stepped up its student assistance efforts, hosting dozens of events, from identity-based roundtables with alumni, to career-oriented discussions with industry leaders, to small, in-person dinners with alumni. Of special note are the two task forces the CCAA created to support the Classes of 2020 and 2021. We are offering both classes tailored events, extended mentoring support and special communications to help them transition to alumnihood and land on their feet as graduates.

We hope that reflecting on last year's student and alumni accomplishments renews your pride at being a member of this community; we have thrived despite the many difficult circumstances and we hope to be on the other side soon. Our community still needs one another, though, so we ask that you continue to support one another, the students and alma mater. Hire a recent graduate, interview a prospective student, mentor a current student, participate in CCAA events, contribute to the Columbia College Fund (college.givenow.columbia.edu) and/or reconnect with a classmate. When we look back at this time, let's remember the strength and spirit of our amazing Columbia College community.



THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSWOMAN SARA JACOBS

California Gets a New Congresswoman

By Elizabeth Segrán '05

In her first week as a congresswoman, **Sara Jacobs '11, SIPA'12** (D-Calif.) was still acquainting herself with the labyrinthine halls of the Capitol when the unthinkable happened. Seated in the House Gallery, she heard commotion in the distance. A split second later, Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) was whisked off the floor by security. The noise turned out to be rioters storming the building. "They told us to take our evacuation hoods out from under our seats," Jacobs recalls, referring to the spacesuit-like protective gear that members of Congress wore over their heads as they ran to safety on January 6. "Then we had to evacuate, but there was no direct route out. We had to climb over chairs and handrails until we got to the final secure location."

It was a terrifying start to Jacobs's career in national politics. At 31, the recently elected representative is the youngest woman in her freshman class and the third-youngest member of the House. But witnessing the insurrection drove home the reason she entered politics to begin with: to put communities back together again after they have been torn apart. "We should focus on the fractures

in our society that allowed something like this to happen," she says. "We've long had an issue with white supremacy, white nationalism and racial resentment in this country that we've never really addressed. Those wounds are showing themselves very clearly now."

Jacobs believes she is well equipped to tackle these systemic problems thanks, in part, to her time at Columbia, where she participated in a five-year joint program at the College and SIPA. When she arrived on campus from her hometown of San Diego, she wasn't sure what she wanted to do with her life. On a whim, she took an American foreign policy class, and was fascinated by how good governance can change societies. She took more political science courses, and joined the Columbia Political Union and the Political Science Student Association. "I was always focused on the kinds of problems we don't have the answers for, versus the ones that we just need political mobilization to solve," she says.

In her graduate work, Jacobs specialized in international conflict resolution, where she analyzed the forces that tear countries apart and studied the root causes of violence. She spent her 20s traveling

around the globe, applying what she'd learned to broker peace in the real world. At the State Department, she developed policies to foster stability in Mali and the Sahel; in UNICEF's innovation unit she came up with creative strategies for improving children's lives in developing countries. And at the United Nations's Department of Peacekeeping Operations, she drew up best practices for nations in the throes of conflict. These experiences allowed Jacobs to observe communities in the midst of strife, but also showed her that it is possible to heal divisions and move forward. "I'm using a lot of what I learned in my master's program as we're looking at how we repair this country," she says.

Case in point: Some of her earliest actions as a legislator were designed to close this painful chapter in American history and set the country on a path toward healing. She voted to impeach President Donald Trump, co-sponsored legislation asking Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.) to resign for calling for violence against Democrats and supported the Biden administration's Covid-19 relief bill.

These days, she puts her training to use in roles on the House Committees of Foreign Affairs and Armed Services. With polarization at a fever pitch in the United States, Jacobs's lessons in peacekeeping are now critically relevant. She points out that new communications technologies often exacerbate conflict, and social media is contributing to antagonism and misinformation here at home, but she believes these platforms can be better regulated so they are less likely to spur conflict. "I've worked in countries that are far more divided and polarized than the U.S., and there have

been processes to bring the country back together," she says. "It is definitely possible."

In her role in the 117th House of Representatives, Jacobs is tasked with tackling unique challenges due to the pandemic and the havoc it's wreaked on the economy. But she sees possibilities for growth, as well: Congress has never been more diverse, with a record number of women — particularly women of color — elected last year. Jacobs believes she and her fellow congresswomen can play a role in rebuilding the country more equitably. She points out that a disproportionate number of women left their jobs during the pandemic, and creating policies that enable them to return to the workforce is key to helping the economy rebound. "We're just rolling up our sleeves to get things done and trying to avoid partisan bickering," she says. "We have the opportunity to not just remake the economy, and the societal and political structures of the past, but also to use this moment to figure out how to set us up well for the future."

Jacobs often thinks back to her time at Columbia, and the course of study that prepared her for this moment in American history. As she sits in her office in the Capitol, specific books from the Core Curriculum often come to mind. "I have been referencing Thucydides a lot lately," she says. "He had a lot to say about rebuilding the international order."

Elizabeth Segrant '05 is a senior staff writer at Fast Company and the author of *The Rocket Years: How Your Twenties Launch the Rest of Your Life*. She lives in Boston with her CC'05 husband, whom she met freshman year; daughter; and books.

USRowing Chair Will Help Choose Tokyo Olympians

By Jill C. Shomer

Nobuhisa Ishizuka '82, LAW'86 became a rower by accident. Two of his suitemates and some friends he'd made his first semester were trying out for the Columbia crew as walk-ons, and Ishizuka tagged along. "It was pure coincidence; I don't have the natural build for it," he says. Ishizuka was a gymnast and played baseball while at boarding school at Andover, and was looking for something new to do. "Rowing just happened to be there," he says. He got a spot, and rowed for the lightweight crew as one of the Freshmen Eight.

Now Ishizuka is helping to decide which Olympic hopefuls will row in Tokyo this summer. (The games were postponed last year because of the Covid-19 pandemic.) In March he was elected chair of the Board of Directors of USRowing, a nonprofit membership organization that governs the sport in the United States; Ishizuka is leading the board in overseeing the high-performance team, which is responsible for the selection and training and management of rowing teams that represent the U.S. in all international competitions.

USRowing already qualified eight of the 14 Olympic boats that will go to Tokyo (and all four Paralympic boats) during last year's World Championships. Trials for the remaining six boats started in February and continued through April, leading to a final selection regatta in Lucerne, Switzerland, in May — just eight weeks before the games

get underway on July 23. (We may see a Columbian there — Charlotte Buck '18 is at the U.S. Women's Training Camp competing for selection.)

"It is an exciting time to lead the board heading into the Olympics," Ishizuka says. "The dedication and focus of the athletes and staff are incredible; it is truly humbling to see them putting themselves on the line day after day in pursuit of their goals."

Ishizuka is not just a leader in the rowing world; he is also the executive director of the Center for Japanese Legal Studies at the Law School, responsible for programming and scholarship in the area of Japanese law. He also teaches comparative international law and leads a reading group on Asian-American legal history.

The eldest son of Japanese immigrants, Ishizuka majored in East Asian studies at the College, then spent a year in Japan before starting at the Law School. He began his career working with Japanese clients "in the robust overheated trade wars of the 1980s," he says, ultimately becoming a partner at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher &





Flom. He practiced for 12 years in New York and 19 years in Asia; when he returned to the U.S. in 2017 ready for a new challenge, his alma mater beckoned.

Ishizuka's first connection to USRowing came in the 1990s; he became a member while racing in masters-level regattas with a group from the New York Athletic Club. "It was an outgrowth of my interest in the sport," Ishizuka says. He joined the board in 2018. After the Summer Olympics, he, the board and the leadership team will continue their work to support local clubs and elite athletes in their development and high-performance programs, and are committed to increasing diversity and inclusion in the sport.

Ishizuka still rows several times a week near his home in Connecticut, and races as part of a team boat with a club every fall. He says with a laugh, "I'm busier now than when I was in law practice!"



SPORTSGRAPHICS

Ishizuka on the water.

Taking the Guesswork Out of College Schedules

By Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN'09

Heading into spring semester their junior year, friends **Nick Diao '19** and **Justin Wenig '19** were dealing with a common student conundrum: They couldn't take all the computer science courses they wanted because the class times overlapped. The problem got them thinking — how could colleges be better equipped to build well-balanced course schedules? Soon, their all-in-one schedule, curriculum, syllabus and catalog-planning platform, Coursedog, was born.

The software helps colleges and universities to optimize everything from course times and locations to instructor preferences for class size and tech requirements, taking the guesswork out of what used to be the tedious task of designing curriculums by hand. Since its launch in 2018, more than 80 institutions have signed up for Coursedog's services; the co-founders landed on the *Forbes* 2021 30 Under 30 list earlier this year.

From their first spark of an idea, things moved quickly. The pair scrapped their summer internship plans (Diao in a physics lab and Wenig with Tesla) and threw their energy into building Coursedog. "We spent summer 2018 working out of Mudd Lounge," Wenig

says. "It was a very sweaty time — it was hot and we were making a lot of cold calls, which, as computer science students, we were very uncomfortable with at the time. We probably made 1,000 calls. We just wanted to learn as much about how schools create schedules as we could."

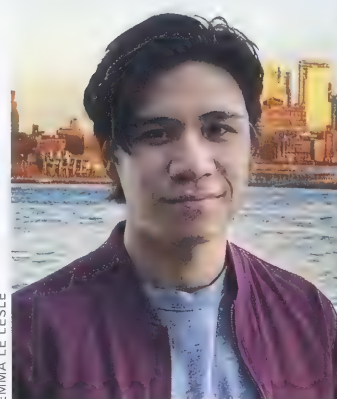
By the end of that summer, they realized they had a potential hit on their hands (Columbia Law School and Brigham Young University were among the early adopters). In the fall of their senior year, Diao and Wenig were accepted into the prestigious Y Combinator startup accelerator, which invests seed money in fledgling companies and gives them three

months to develop their products and pitches for investors. The duo headed to California that winter and by the time they were done, Coursedog's client list was exploding with universities, colleges and community colleges on both coasts looking to streamline their curriculum design.

"The initial idea for a product is never what it becomes," says Wenig. "We had planned to build a better version of [Columbia's student course-selection service] Vergil, and what we ultimately built was a tool that administrators use to create better schedules for students."

As a relatively new company when the Covid-19 pandemic hit, the young entrepreneurs had to adapt as schools changed how they operated; suddenly, campuses that had always prioritized in-person education were struggling with how to teach online. Fortunately, the Coursedog staff, which has grown to nearly 40 employees, was set up for remote work from the start; Diao and Wenig work from home in the United States and their engineering team is based in Poland. They began expanding how Coursedog managed data to make schools' pandemic pivoting easier, including adding ways for schools to indicate which classes were offered online as well as setting maximum capacities for in-person classes to enforce social distancing.

Now, with many colleges reopening for on-campus learning or planning to reopen in the fall, they are looking to future growth: "Our big vision is to rebuild university administration software from scratch," says Wenig. "Today that cause will be called 'curriculum success' — helping campus administrators make better decisions about their curriculum. Tomorrow it really means meeting [the needs of] the whole software world of higher education."



EMMA LE LESLIE

Nick Diao '19



CINDY WENIG

Justin Wenig '19

bookshelf

Why Home Ec Deserves Respect

By Jill C. Shomer

What comes to mind when you think of “home economics?” For me it’s the wad of peach fabric I failed to make into a blouse in the seventh grade; generally, the phrase conjures 1950s housewives, scorched muffins, maybe a bag of flour carried in a baby sling.

Most people don’t think of science, feminism or cultural influence, but **Danielle Dreilinger ’99** is determined to change that. In her debut book, *The Secret History of Home Economics: How Trailblazing Women Harnessed the Power of the Home and Changed the Way We Live* (W.W. Norton & Co., \$27.95), Dreilinger engagingly tells the stories of the field’s founders and describes the creation of a home economics movement that instructed and inspired generations of women. She also shines a light on the racism that existed within the movement and the strides made by women of color who were influential leaders and innovators; highlights what the field brought to the 20th century (hello, seven food groups, school lunches, clothing-care labels); and makes a solid case for home economics as a necessary source of study today.

In the 19th century, home economics education was an avenue for women to enter the sciences; one of the field’s founders was a chemist, Ellen Swallow Richards, who was the first woman to graduate from MIT (the book includes an amazing photo from 1890 of a petite Richards holding space among 25 heavily mustachioed colleagues). From the beginning, the movement’s intent

was to change the world through the household, and to help people live better lives. “In 1899 home economists argued for school gardens, STEM education for girls, takeout food, and affordable day care,” Dreilinger writes. “And yet home economics has been denigrated over and over again as ‘just stitching and stirring.’”

By compellingly spotlighting the heroines of the movement and outlining the practical benefits offered by modern home ec curriculums, Dreilinger makes the case for a comeback. “Home economics is, can, and should be an inter-

disciplinary, ecological field that explores the connections between our homes and the world,” she writes.

Dreilinger, who is based in New Orleans and was formerly an education reporter at the *Times-Picayune*, fell into the study of home economics while testing various book ideas and applying for writ-

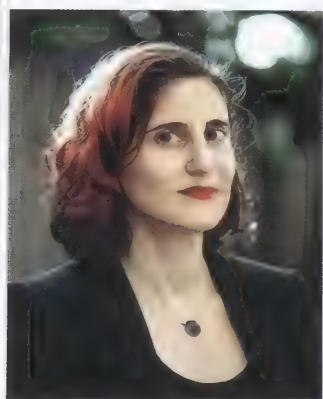
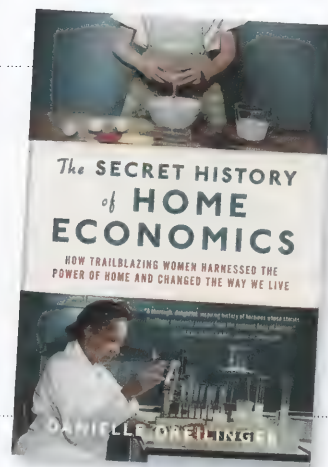
ing grants. Under consideration for a Knight-Wallace Fellowship for Journalists (she received the honor in 2018), she was told about a stellar culinary collection at the University of Michigan, the fellowship’s sponsor. “I just felt myself light up,” she says. She liked to cook and was interested in writing about that, but was also interested in history, race, gender, class and education. “I put all that into a blender and came up with home economics. I asked myself, ‘With everything that’s happening in our culture, shouldn’t that be a thing again?’”

Dreilinger spent three years doing intense research, which she says was an enormous pleasure (fun fact: she found a number of helpful documents in the Butler Library archives); it’s the kind of work she’s enjoyed since her time at the College. “What I loved about Columbia was finding a place where I could talk about books and problems,” she says. “The more I’ve been able to do that since, the happier I’ve been. And the research and reporting for this book was tons of books and tons of problems.”

It was also at the College that she learned how to cook for herself. “I didn’t have a meal plan after my first year, and my dorm was a converted apartment building with a kitchen,” Dreilinger says. “So I got an early start on that practical matter. And that’s really what home ec is — it’s not *Gourmet* magazine; it’s about basic cooking and how to feed yourself, and also about culinary career preparation and learning how our food systems work.”

Dreilinger is hoping her book will help to kickstart a national dialogue about bringing home economics back into visibility and relevance; she’d love to see the teaching of practical life skills become mandatory for middle- and high-schoolers. “As an education reporter, I know what a tall order it is to tell states to make something mandatory, but I also think that’s how you bump something up the priority list,” she says. (She urges interested parents to speak out at their local Board of Education meetings. “I’ve covered I don’t know how many state and school board meetings, and they really do matter,” she says.)

This a promising moment, Dreilinger says, because we are thinking more about home economics than we have in a long time. The last two decades have seen dramatic growth in homemaking media — thousands of DIY and cooking blogs, *Real Simple*, the Food Network, *Project Runway*, Michelle Obama’s health and fitness initiatives, and more. We’ve also spent an inordinate amount of time in our homes recently because of the Covid-19 pandemic: “People are more aware than ever about the permeability of those four walls; the home may be a refuge, but it is also political and economic,” Dreilinger writes. “We are recognizing the importance and the inescapability of the work that takes place inside the home.”



KATHLEEN FLYNN



Listen Up! Musings & Cartoons by Dr. Lawrence S. Harte '53. Playful commentary on topics of the day from Flipdip the fantastical dog and his sidekick, Harte (BookBaby, \$4.99 for Kindle).

The Finesse: Only a Last Resort by Dr. James Marsh Sternberg '58. A finesse is one of the most common terms in bridge; in addition to his work in radiology, Sternberg is a champion bridge player and instructor (AuthorHouse, \$17.99).

Sergeant Salinger: A Novel by Jerome Charyn '59. Charyn imagines the famously reclusive author J.D. Salinger as a young WWII draftee, assigned to a band of secret soldiers to seek out and interrogate Nazi collaborators (Bellevue Literary Press, \$16.59).

Before the Sidewalk Ended: A Walk with Shel Silverstein by Anthony Valerio '62. Valerio memorializes his long friendship with author Silverstein against a

backdrop of 1980s Greenwich Village (Audible audiobook, \$5.99).

The Restoration of Man: C.S. Lewis and the Continuing Case Against Scientism by Michael D. Aeschliman '70. Well-known for his Narnia books, Lewis was also a trained philosopher who critiqued the idea that science is the only path to knowledge; Aeschliman situates Lewis among other notable thinkers who weighed in on the issue (Discovery Institute, \$14.95).

Giving My Father Back His Name: The Fuller Brush Man Meets the Great American Portrait Artist by Jerry Strauss '77. The life story of Strauss's father, a salesman and Holocaust survivor, and how he became a subject of painter Alice Neel (Independent Publisher, \$17.95).

Bound in the Bond of Life: Writers Reflect on the Tree of Life Tragedy edited by Beth Kissileff '90. An anthology of essays by Pittsburgh journalists, academics, rabbis and other community members who try to come to terms with the horror of the murders of 11 worshippers at the Tree of Life Synagogue in October 2018 (University of Pittsburgh Press, \$25).

The New Normal: A Roadmap to Resilience in the Pandemic Era by Dr. Jennifer Ashton '91. Ashton, ABC News's chief medical correspondent,

offers an essential toolkit for staying safe and sane in a rapidly changing world (William Morrow, \$26.99).

Escape: One Day We Had to Run by Wah Chen '92 and Ming Chen. The Chen sisters' latest children's book shares true stories of courageous people who had to leave their homes and families because of war, famine or persecution (Lantana Publishing, \$17.99).

Opium and Absinthe: A Novel by Dr. Lydia Kang '93. A young, drug-addicted woman investigates her sister's death in turn-of-the-century New York City, and wonders whether the murder was committed by a vampire (Lake Union Publishing, \$14.99).

Amazon Unbound: Jeff Bezos and the Invention of a Global Empire by Brad Stone '93. Stone, the bestselling author of *The Everything Store*, continues his investigation into Amazon and describes how a retail upstart became one of the most powerful and feared entities in the global economy (Simon & Schuster, \$30).

Get Money, Do Good: A True Story How-To by J.D. Vermaas '95. In this adoption memoir, Vermaas details how she and her husband made a life-altering journey to rescue 11 South Asian children from slavery and sexual exploitation (Vermaas, \$25.99).

I Had a Brother Once: A Poem, A Memoir by Adam Mansbach '98. Mansbach chronicles the loss of his younger brother to suicide in this poetic meditation on mourning, ritual and faith (One World, \$26).

The August Trials: The Holocaust and Postwar Justice in Poland by Andrew Kornbluth '04. The first account of the August Trials, initiated in Poland in 1944, that were meant to bring Nazi war criminals and their collaborators to justice (Harvard University Press, \$45).

The Daylight Plays Tricks on Us by Julianne Hoffmann '16. Hoffmann's poetry reflects opposing thoughts and changing emotions, the shifts from day to night and from security to anxiety (Julie Hoffmann, \$9.50).

Monologues from the Makom: Intertwined Narratives of Sexuality, Gender, Body Image and Jewish Identity edited by Sarah J. Ricklan '17, Rivka Cohen and Sara Rozner Lawrence. A collection of poetry and prose designed to break the observant Jewish community's taboo against open discussion of female sexuality (Ben Yehuda Press, \$14.95).

The We and They by Kyra Ann Dawkins '20. Dawkins's debut novel takes place in a world beset by famine, as a group of survivors gets lured in by bountiful but mysterious strangers (New Degree Press, \$15.99).

— Jill C. Shomer

SUBMIT YOUR BOOK TO CCT

Alums! Have you written a book in the last year? Tell us about it!

college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_bookshelf

classnotes



JENNA BASCOM PHOTOGRAPHY

Columbia's motto, translated as "In Thy light shall we see light," is carved over the doors of St. Paul's Chapel.

1940s

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Dr. Calvin M. Kunin '49 reached out to *CCT*. Calvin, an emeritus professor of medicine of the Ohio State University, past president of the Infectious Diseases Society of America, a former epidemic intelligence officer at the CDC and a former medical consultant to the king of Morocco and the National Health Research Institutes, Taiwan, shared an essay he wrote about some memorable time he spent on campus. He titled it *The Good Professor*:

"The events I relate took place more than 70 years ago, but remain vivid in my mind. I was uncertain how to spend the six months between my early graduation from Columbia College and first year at Cornell Medical College. I

considered whether the best course might be going to Florida to work as a waiter and save some money for the coming school year. I had received a National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis scholarship at the medical college, but had already overburdened my parents for college expenses. My decision to go to medical school was largely by default. I was following the path of my older brother, Arthur '48, who was going to medical school at the University of Vermont. He was a WWII wounded veteran and had paved the way for me, and my younger brothers, Larry '52, LAW'55 and Jack '62, GSAS'74, to attend Columbia College.

"I was one of a large group of ambitious students from the outer boroughs of New York who hoped to make it in the city. I, and my younger brothers, were more than willing to travel from our home in Brooklyn to 116th street in Man-

hattan for an hour and a half, by bus and subway, each way. I felt that the key to success was to listen, read and study. This left little room for campus life and socialization. The major exception was to experience the beauty of renaissance music as a second tenor in the chapel choir.

"Columbia College provided a superb liberal arts education, but it served only as a prequel to a career in business or a graduate degree.

Class Notes are submitted by alumni and edited by volunteer class correspondents and the staff of *CCT* prior to publication. Opinions expressed are those of individual alumni and do not reflect the opinions of *CCT*, its class correspondents, the College or the University. By submitting to Class Notes, you acknowledge that the text is eligible to appear in print as well as on *CCT* Online and in archives.



Medical school offered the opportunity for a stable career and a bounty of knowledge. I was unaware of what medical practice was all about.

"All of this changed when I met Professor Francis J. Ryan '37, GSAS'41. I had taken his course in zoology the year before graduation. He was an amazing, brilliant lecturer. He could write on the blackboard with either hand in three colors, as he taught us embryogenesis. It was my best course ever. It turned out that Professor Ryan was also a faculty advisor for pre-medical students. He called me to his office a few days before my graduation to review my plans. He was a pleasant, athletic-appearing man, in his mid-30s, with a broad smile, open honest face and a twinkle in his eyes. I told him about my dilemma and asked his advice. He listened to my story and told me not to go to Florida, but to spend the time in his laboratory. He proceeded to give me a mini-lecture on the newly developing field of molecular genetics using the mold *Neurospora crassa* and the bacterium *Escherichia coli* for the experiments. I was fascinated by the opportunity and accepted his invitation. Money was no longer in the equation.

"Professor Ryan provided me with a series of references to read about the basic concepts of molecular genetics as understood at the time. He asked Lillian Schneider, his secretary/laboratory technician, to teach me the basic methods used in a microbiology laboratory. She was very patient with me, an angel. She gave me a head start to establish my own laboratory years later.

"My major assignment was to study the effect of salt on growth of a mutant of *Neurospora* unable to synthesize pantothenic acid. I found that the strength of the relationship was dependent on the ionic strength rather than the osmotic effect of the medium. Professor Ryan included me as an author of this, my first paper. The reader may find this work to be highly esoteric, but it serendipitously prepared my mind for studies 30 years later. It helped to explain how *E. coli* are able to grow in the presence of hypertonic urine.

"Another of Professor Ryan's projects was also highly relevant to my work on urinary tract infections. In a novel experiment, he mixed two closely related strains of *E. coli* that differed by only one mutation. He

then passaged the progeny numerous times until only one strain survived because of a small advantage over the other. This helps to explain why only one strain of *E. coli* colonizes the urine of women with uncomplicated urinary tract infections.

"I felt very comfortable in Professor Ryan's laboratory. I could come or leave any time. I was introduced to visiting scientists who had interesting things to say about their work. Professor Ryan invited all of us to relax for tea and cakes in the afternoon. I was invited for dinner with his lovely wife at their small apartment. He even tolerated my abysmal attempt at tennis, and he awarded me with honors in zoology.

"My last encounter with Professor Ryan was at a meeting in Montreal a few years later. He was a heavy cigarette smoker, so much so that he would light a new one while the old was still in his mouth. He died of a heart attack in his mid-40s. I had not known this at the time and did not attend his funeral. I learned many years later that Joshua Lederberg '44 had preceded me four years earlier and Professor Ryan's own mentor was George Beadle. Both won Nobel Prizes."

Classmates would enjoy hearing from you, too! Please send your updates by email to cct@columbia.edu or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note, and we will share them in a future issue. Wishing you a pleasant summer.

1950

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

No news this time! Please send updates by email to cct@columbia.edu or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note, and we will share them in a future issue. Wishing you a pleasant summer!

1951

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

David Kettler GSAS'60 writes: "By coincidence, your inquiry [for Class Notes] came within a few hours of the publisher's notice that my most

COLUMBIA SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS

BC	Barnard College
BUS	Columbia Business School
CP	Pharmaceutical Sciences
DM	College of Dental Medicine
GS	School of General Studies
GSAPP	Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation
GSAS	Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
HN	Institute of Human Nutrition
JRN	Graduate School of Journalism
JTS	Jewish Theological Seminary
LAW	Columbia Law School
LS	Library Service
NRS	School of Nursing
PH	Mailman School of Public Health
PS	College of Physicians and Surgeons
SEAS	The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science
SIPA	School of International and Public Affairs
SOA	School of the Arts
SPS	School of Professional Studies
SW	School of Social Work
TC	Teachers College
UTS	Union Theological Seminary

recent book, *First Letters After Exile* by Thomas Mann, Hannah Arendt, Ernst Bloch, and Others, is ready. I am listed as co-editor and co-author. The project has been mine from the outset.

"As a duly certified nonagenarian, I cannot promise more. It's been fun."

Please send your news by email to cct@columbia.edu or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note, and we will share it in a future issue. Enjoy the summer!

1952

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Dr. Irvin Herman writes: "While sipping a delicious cup of Peet's Coffee, I had a sudden memory of the terrible coffee served in Lions Den in my undergraduate days. Only reason to go there was convenience. We'd gather there between or after classes to socialize and hold impromptu seminars. It was speculated that the urns were never cleaned.

"Many years later, on a rare trip to NYC, I took time to wander the campus. Seized by nostalgia, I dropped into the Den for a cup of coffee. It was still the same crappy

stuff but was delicious with the seasoning of pleasant memories."

Joseph Di Palma shares that he was nominated and approved as a biographical representative for business professionals from the State of New York in the upcoming edition of *Marquis Who's Who*.

He celebrated his 90th birthday this year with his wife of more than 50 years, Joycelyn Engle, a feature film writer, director and producer, and the executive producer and casting director for the PBS TV show *The Di Palma Forum* at UNLV.

Please send your news by email to cct@columbia.edu or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note, and we will share it in a future issue. Wishing you a safe and happy summer!

1953

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Julian Wolpert "went on to the University of Wisconsin for a master's and Ph.D. in geography, interrupted by a four-year stint in the Navy as a flying anti-submarine aviator. He then spent 10 years teaching at Penn before appointment for the next 30 years as the Henry G. Bryant Profes-

sor at Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, where he chaired the program in Geography, Public Affairs and Urban Planning, retiring in 2005.

"He was married to Eileen Selig for 61 years, until she passed away in 2016. He has four children, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, lives on the Upper West Side and participates actively in the Lifelong Learning Program at the CUNY Graduate Center.

"He was honored by election to the National Academy of Sciences in 1977 and by other awards and fellowships.

"Julian remembers often oversleeping and learning to navigate the tunnels for speedier access to classes, and being sent back to Columbia as a 'spy' during the [1968] demonstrations to learn how Penn could prepare."

Larry Harte has published his fourth book. *LISTEN UP: Musings & Cartoons* is composed of cartoons, one-liners, original art and easily digestible tidbits on topics of the day. You will even find a quiz at the back of the book to challenge the reader or grandchild to predict the future of the world in 50 years. Larry gives his prediction on an upside-down page. All net proceeds go to charity.

Kenneth N. Skoug Jr. checked in: "As a Foreign Service officer (professional diplomat) 1957-90, my wife, Martha, and I, when serving in Washington, D.C., lived on George Washington's River Farm property. After retirement (1990) and after Martha died (2008), I moved (2014) to reside close to my daughter Reed in Harleysville, Pa., outside Philadelphia, where I live alone on two peaceful acres with deer, foxes and lots of bunnies for neighbors, plus an 8-year-old English Shepherd dog who puts up with me as long as she gets fed. I think often of old friends, especially runners, in CC'53 and CC'54."

Michael Guerriero SEAS'59 says he "cannot believe that 68 years have passed since graduation. I continued my association with **Leo Walsh** and **Ferdie Setaro** '55, both now deceased. Now 90, I continue to recall the good friends I made, and the great college and engineering education I received. As a professional engineer, I worked on the design of Thimble Shoal Island of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tun-

nel, designed roads in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) and developed the design of the retirement communities Rossmoor Village and Clearbrook Adult Community in New Jersey. Now in retirement, I keep myself occupied with artwork, painting water and scenic scenes, reading and staying active in the Knights of Columbus."

Angel I. Ferrer "turned 89 on March 1. My sister and two nephews, three nieces, one daughter, three sons and three grandchildren all helped me celebrate long distance, via Zoom.

"I still do some minor consulting in information technology, to stay busy, but the pandemic has shut me down. I now live in Columbus, Ga., to be near my sister. My youngest grandchild is taking some college-level courses in Gainesville, Fla., although she is in 10th grade.

"Hello to **Herb Mark** and **Bernie Epstein**.

"It was my beanie that got stolen and became the prize during the Frosh-Soph Rush. Does that barbaric event still take place?"

Jim Sherwin LAW'56 writes: "I have been living in the bucolic English countryside near Bath for more than 20 years with my second wife, Hiroko, a writer (10 books) and painter to whom I have been married for more than 35 years. I have three daughters, Miranda Sherwin GSAS'03, Alison Sherwin and Galen Sherwin LAW'03, and three step-daughters, Yoko Yoshikawa, Mako Yoshikawa '88 and Aiko Yoshikawa, living in the States. Galen practices law at the ACLU, Mako is a professor and novelist, and Miranda earned a Ph.D. in comparative literature. Miranda has a son, Ben '22, one of my seven grandchildren. My father and a total of 16 relatives (see Class of 1955) went to Columbia.

"After the Law School, I served in the Coast Guard Reserve (Lt. Cdr.); married Professor Judith Johnson BC'58, a poet; and practiced with a New York firm and with General Aniline & Film Corp. (GAF). In 1960 we moved to Brussels and I ran its European operations, becoming chief financial officer and a director in 1973. I became chief financial officer at Triangle Industries in 1983, returning to GAF in 1985 as vice-chair. I survived a tortuous legal encounter with that paladin of justice, Rudy

Giuliani, and became the chief financial officer of Hunter Douglas, a Dutch multinational corporation, in 1991, where I was until 2020, and remain a director. The University of Bath awarded me an honorary LL.D. in 2007.

"I play chess online (I have been inducted into the US Chess Hall of Fame); run a hedge fund, 80Plus Partners; and reminisce about my happy days at the College and Law School. We hosted a Columbia College alumni party here several years ago and would welcome any old friends and classmates who want a glimpse of English country life.

during the start of the coronavirus and plans to graduate in 2022. He started a nonprofit charity to help New Yorkers on the Upper West Side. During this past year, Liam's group, now called Invisible Hands, grew to 12,000 volunteers, all over New York City, Philadelphia and Atlanta, bringing food, medication and other services to elderly and disabled seniors. Liam started where they live, in NYC. My son, Mitchell PH'98, is a professor of neurology at P&S, a professor of epidemiology at the Mailman School of Public Health, an attending neurologist in the Division of Stroke and Cere-

Dr. Arthur H. Elkind '53 became interested in Netherlandish art at the College; collecting and studying the Old Masters remains a wonderful hobby.

We have an alpaca, two cats and two guinea fowl to keep us occupied in these lockdown times."

Dr. Arthur H. Elkind shares: "I retired on June 30, 2011, but continued as president for two years at the National Headache Foundation. I continued as a board member and resigned from the organization in 2019. During my third and fourth years at the College, 1952 and 1953, I became interested in art history classes, particularly Netherlandish 16th- and 17th-century art. I married **Arlene Ruth Hirsch** in 1955, during my third year at State University of New York Downstate Medical School in Brooklyn. We spent the summer traveling in Western Europe. We visited museums in New York City, which provided the beginning of serious interest in art history. During the Western European trip we spent time at the Louvre, Rijksmuseum, Uffizi and the National Gallery London. During my practice in the 1980s we began to acquire old master prints and drawings of the Dutch and Flemish schools. Art study, professors and museum curators helped in studying our Northern Europe art. The art of the Old Masters is a wonderful hobby. Many collectors became new friends.

"Our three children and six grandchildren entered fine colleges. The youngest, Liam, decided to hold back a year at Yale College

brovascular Disease at Columbia University Irving Medical Center/ NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital and president of the American Heart Association. All our children and grandchildren are busy: financial, business, psychologic programs, teachers, writer and director of drama Off-Broadway. This past year, grandson Zachary, a director, was working online at home. We even have a designer, Hannah, a manufacturer of high-end sport bags called Go Dash Dot, with some help from her mom and sister.

"We are all hoping to receive the vaccine and continue working better than during the coronavirus the past year."

Thank you to all who shared news and memories! Please send yours by email to cct@columbia.edu or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note, and we will include it in a future issue. Enjoy the summer!

1954

Bernd Brecher
brecherservices@aol.com

Hello to summer, all you members of the Class of Destiny, who are, in the words of Stephen Sondheim, "still here," as we leave the pandemic tunnel to emerge into a world we might



hardly know. We will greet each other as old friends, sons of alma mater, who will help build and rebuild our lives, our families, our friends, our communities, and our battered and ever-tested democracy, the greatest the world has ever seen! We look at ourselves — as parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, uncles, cousins, neighbors, and friends — and give thanks that we survived a relentless enemy whose face we do not ever want to see again.

These Class Notes are about us, neither a homily nor a sermon, but a place to share with each other our successes and discoveries, our hopes and goals, the names of our latest grandkids and their and our children's latest achievements, as well as frustrations we've encountered and sad events we've survived. Indeed, here is a place to crow, show off, and deal with the entirety of our human comedy. If not now, when? If not here, where? So, let's dig in and enjoy reading about the doings of some of our oldest, i.e., longest, cohorts — the men of '54.

Ralph Alfenito and his wife, Jo, send best wishes and want us to know that they have relocated to a senior compound in Easton, Md.: "Closer to our daughter, granddaughters and great-granddaughter, and life could not be better!"

That, Ralph, appears to sum up an ideal retirement and your heartfelt appreciation for it. Good for both of you and for your extended family generations.

Herb Zydney SEAS'55, GSAS'59 sends us "a snapshot of my most recent Columbia years. In fall 2019 I was on campus for greeting the freshman Class of 2023 [at Convocation]. Spoke to a few, and their enthusiasm was notable. President Lee C. Bollinger's greeting on 'understanding' was memorable. With others, I carried a banner for the 1950s classes. If we had been greeted that way as incoming freshmen, the banner would have been for the classes of the 1880s! In early 2020, I attended a West Palm Beach dinner with others from the Columbia University Club of South Florida (Miami). I was the most senior.

"My 65th SEAS campus reunion was canceled because of Covid-19. But the online replacement brought close contact with Columbia Engineering Dean Mary Boyce and her humanities focus. More recently, SEAS has

announced a partnership with Amazon on artificial intelligence research.

"A great time to be starting at Columbia," Herb sums up, "but unfortunately, the pandemic experience will also stay with everyone."

Thanks, Herb, for your continuing loyalty and for showing us what can be done by guys who, in most cases, will be turning the Big Nine-O next year.

George Goldstein sends us "greetings from the beach at Boca Raton, Fla., where we've lived for eight years. It's been an interesting 'passage,' especially in 2020."

He shares a brief history: "Med school at Syracuse; internship at Johns Hopkins; USAF service at a U-2 spy plane base; all the way through private practice, the corporate world (chief medical officer for a multinational pharma company); to today. Retired 15 years ago after co-founding what became a NASDAQ-traded biopharm company. Now there's time to play bridge; follow my beloved Mets (hail new owner Steve Cohen!); and, pay attention to my wife of 63 years, Shirley. Best wishes for health and safety to all classmates and TEP brothers! Keep Roaring!"

Sounds like you're working on your memoirs, George. Start with the spy planes, the private practice should build on that intrigue, and don't forget a featured part for Shirley. Good to hear from you, and I promise we'll all visit you post-pandemic in Boca.

Henry Buchwald PS'57 wrote in March that he and his wife, Emilie, have gotten their vaccinations and were "looking forward to coming out of our year of hibernation. Though I no longer operate or see patients, I continue to be an active member of the faculty of the Department of Surgery of the University of Minnesota. My current work interests encompass working with the American College of Surgeons to increase knowledge of metabolic surgery as a discipline; writing bimonthly columns for *General Surgery News*; and, completing a book on healthcare, *Healthcare Upside Down*, that reflects on the loss of the doctor-patient relationship in favor of top-down administrative management in today's world of impersonal medicine for the benefit of major insurance and pharmaceutical companies' stockholders."

He asks for comments and says that "any will be appreciated."

Thanks, Henry, for continuing the good fight on the inside, in which most of us as laymen/patients at the bottom of the medical service supply chain have little power or ability to participate. Email your responses to Henry to the address at the top of this column.

Edward Cowan reports again on **Brian Tansey**, "who lives in Twin Towers, a retirement community in his native Cincinnati (where my wife and I visited him in May 2019).

"He sounded great — well and focused — on the phone. He, and all residents of Twin Towers, had been vaccinated, and he was looking forward to a visit later that week from daughter Eira. She teaches library science and information management at the University of Cincinnati; her husband, Justin Levy, is a lawyer on the staff of Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. As always, Brian has been paying close attention to current events and politics. It is no secret that he is a passionate Democrat (but he allowed that Ohio's Republican governor, Mike DeWine, was 'not bad.')

Arnold Tolkin shares: "An eventful year, with five new great-grandchildren, marking the following totals: four children (two Columbia College grads, one from the Law School), 12 grandchildren (one Columbia College grad, two from the Business School), and 12 great-grandchildren, all under the age of 5. No travel for the obvious reasons. Playing lots of bridge online weekly and so far I am ahead \$79 among my group, which is dwindling due to age.

"We hope to fly to Europe in November and cruise back to Miami. Meanwhile, I am doing lots of reading, and exercising for one and a half hours daily, either in the pool or on a recumbent bike, with 30 minutes of stretching and balance exercises."

Congratulations, Arnie, on your five new great-grandkids, your great physical condition, your great gambling winnings, and for your great support of the University from your great Tolkin family-related tuition payments. C U after the pandemic, by which time your GGGKids total may have hit 14.

In the midst of so much joy, Arnie "was very saddened at learning of the death of my College roommate of two and a half years,

Robert Weber SEAS'55, SEAS'56, who was in touch with me up to about 10 days before his passing." [Editor's note] See "Obituaries."

David Bardin LAW'56 writes that I (Bernd) had "recently noted (at a virtual high school meeting) how many of us Bronx Science graduates entered the College in fall 1950. Unstated was Columbia's decision to abandon its geographic quotas for most admissions, which were still in effect when I graduated from Bronx Science in January 1950.

"Those quotas," he continues, "— one-third for New York City applicants, one-third for suburban (New York, New Jersey, Connecticut) applicants, one-third for applicants from more distant places — led Columbia to put my application on a waiting list and to advise me that admission was unlikely. Compliance with the spirit of a new New York State anti-discrimination law influenced Columbia's admissions policy change a few months later, which 'broke a dam' for Bronx Science graduates (among others), to my understanding, by the time many of you graduated from high school in June," he says.

Thanks, David, for the not-so-long-ago history lesson, and for your accomplishments as a lawyer, public official, and vocal advocate of challenging causes such as statehood for the District of Columbia.

Several of us participated in the virtual *après ski* Zoom "picnic" in February that David referenced. CC'54 attendees from our Bronx High School of Science Class of 1950 were **Jack Blechner**, **Henry Buchwald**, David, and yours truly, as well as several Barnard women (since CC was still men only), including Lenore Self Katkin BC'54 and Marion Siskind Liebowitz BC'54.

In some ways, universally, more attendees seem to have been at more events during this ongoing Covid-19 pandemic than normally attended when travel and group gathering were the norm. Apparently, age has made it easier for many to "attend" functions online than would have spent money amid any travel inconveniences in normal times. So be it!

I'm hoping, gentlemen, that by the time this issue of *CCT* hits the "newsstands," i.e., via web or snail mail, we will all — along with our wives, significant others, and families

— have had our vaccinations or at least have appointments to get them. And that — science over politics — you will still be wearing your masks, washing your hands often, and keeping at least 72.5 inches (bring a ruler) away from those who look like strangers. Universal crowd immunity may still be a few steps away, even when visiting our campus or that of your grandkids. Are we really sacrificing that much if we are then able to pound “the enemy” into the ground?

Now, concerning Class Notes, everyone who appears in it becomes an instant SUPERSTAR. It's easy: Email, snail mail, phone, carrier pigeon, FedEx, Amazon, text, implied threats over the transom, drone. Help me out here, I can't keep making this stuff up. It's all free, including shipping and handling.

Until we meet again, thanks all. Be good, do good, be well, remember Columbia in your will, stay well, help cure the world, give your littler ones a hug for me, enjoy the summer, and be thankful for your good luck. Luv to all, Bernd. Excelsior!

1955

Gerald Sherwin
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CCT reached out to the class in the late winter and heard from quite a few alumni!

Dr. Allen I. Hyman, a professor emeritus in anesthesiology, writes: “I am happy to say that my family legacy with Columbia continues. My son Joshua '85, PS'90 recently became

an endowed professor in orthopedics, and his son Jacob '19 will start in art history in Columbia in the fall. He also has a daughter, Zoe '23.”

Warren I. Cohen shares: “I am a retired university distinguished professor of history (Michigan State and University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and taught at Columbia in 1971) living in Washington, D.C. Many of my 21 books have been published by Columbia University Press, including the last, *A Nation Like All Others* (2019) and the sixth edition of my *America's Response to China* (2020). The press also publishes the Nancy Bernkopf Tucker and Warren I. Cohen Series in American-East Asian Relations. Nancy SIPA'73, GSAS'80, my late wife, was a Columbia Ph.D. and a Georgetown professor.

“In addition to scholarly works, I have written for *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *Los Angeles Times*, *The New York Times*, *Times Literary Supplement* (which led to a reunion with my now-deceased roommate, **George Bahamonde** LAW'57) and *The Washington Post*.

“I have also been at various times the editor of *Diplomatic History*, president of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, chair of the State Department Advisory Committee on Historical Diplomatic Documentation, director of the Asia Program at the Woodrow Wilson Center and a consultant on policy toward China to the Senate, the State Department, the CIA and other government organizations.

“The last classmate I saw was **Dick Kuhn** LAW'58, who, with his wife, joined me for dinner in D.C. four or five years ago.

“I thought of something funny that has nothing to do with the Class of '55. My son is in the Class of '82 and I stayed one night in his room in John Jay. I was rattled to discover the toilets were coed and again when a young woman came scratching at the door after midnight. In the early '50s, women weren't allowed out of the lobby. I had to spend all my time on the Barnard porch.”

William G. Langston updates us: “After nearly 50 years in California, my wife and I decided to move back to New York. Alas, New York is not as we remembered it, nor are we. It is for the young and agile. We are

that no longer. We bought a house in Long Beach for our fifth move in eight years, and our last.”

Stanley Lubman LAW'70 says, “One year ago almost to the day I am writing this (March 9) my wife, Judith, and I moved to our house one and a half hours away on the California Coast Point Reyes National Seashore. We thought it was for three weeks. We stayed for six months. Now we are back to splitting our time and are both vaccinated. All our family are well, the university students are in classes and the eldest grandson (26) is piecing together a life. Everyone is coping and we feel fortunate after what has been a hard year for so many.

“I continue to follow events in China but the outlook for law reform in China has been quite bleak, reflecting the overall politically authoritarian regime.

“Hope all of you are holding up and holding on. I send you my best wishes.”

Dr. **Herbert J. Cohen** notes: “I keep in touch with **Bill Epstein** SEAS'56 regularly and my former roommate, **Bernie Kirtman**, somewhat regularly.

“I do miss the dinners in NYC that **Don Laufer** LAW'57 organized for those who live in the area. It was an occasion to see old friends.

“My own career is winding down. I am now an emeritus professor of pediatrics and rehabilitation medicine at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, as well as the emeritus director of the large clinical and training programs for children with developmental disabilities at the Rose F. Kennedy Center at the medical school. Until last February, I was still teaching and seeing patients at that site. I had to stop due to the pandemic. During the past year, I was limited to delivering just three Zoom lectures and continuing to review articles for various journals while I continued on the Editorial Board for one of them. I will be phasing out of those activities over this year and then plan to fully retire from professional activities.”

William Kronick states: “I've kept off the streets since my last film, 20 years ago, by writing novels, the seventh of which I've been on since the pandemic struck. It's a Hollywood-centric piece, as most of the others have been, with the protagonist, unfortunately or not,

a morally challenged product of Columbia College! I'm calling it *Agenbite of Inwit* ...

“My son, Max (28), has chosen to challenge the odds in the ‘biz’ also and, fortunately, has been gainfully employed during this trying time as a production assistant on a new TV series.”

Dr. **Elliot M. Gross** is “thinking of those we have lost to Covid-19. I continue to be professionally active, and am grateful for CC and CU alumni web events (Professor Ken Jackson and Madeleine Albright GSAS'76, to cite two) which kept me thinking during the lockdown.

“I miss our New York City group lunches but am in regular touch with **Jim Berick** in Cleveland and **Milt Finegold** in Houston. Hope it will not be too long before I can march again in the late summer Convocation and spring Class Day parades, and join a planning committee for our 70th reunion!”

Gerry Pomper shares some sad news: “**Ronald M. Cowan** GSAS'58 died on July 20, 2020, after a series of medical problems, including Parkinson's disease and the onset of dementia. Ron was editorial editor of *Spectator* in our epochal senior year, and wrote most of the editorials, including epic works on the Bicentennial, women in the dorms and University research. He and his wife, Erica, moved to California after graduation (delayed for Ron until 1956), where he became a distinguished researcher in psychology and statistics. After years in San Francisco, where they became close to the famous intellectuals such as Lawrence Ferlinghetti, they moved to Seattle. They had two children and one grandchild. Those who knew Ron knew a person of grace, astonishing intellect, and deep concern for his roommates, multiple friends and the human community.”

More sad news: **Wallace M. Previ** died on November 13, 2019. He was a retired U.S. Navy commander. **William W. May** died on February 23, 2020. **Daniel P. De Palma** BUS'56 died on November 26, 2020. He was a retired college professor. **George Segal** died on March 23, 2021. An actor, he was known for his film (*Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *The Owl and the Pussycat*) and TV (*Just Shoot Me!*, *The Goldbergs*) work. [Editor's note: See “Obituaries” for more on the above-noted gentlemen.]

Stay in
Touch



Let us know if you have a new postal or email address, a new phone number or even a new name:
college.columbia.edu/alumni/connect.



If you attended any of the Columbia Reunion 2021 virtual events in late May or early June, email the CCT staff at cct@columbia.edu, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note, and the news will be shared in a future issue.

Love to all! Everywhere!

1956

Robert Siroty
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Ed Gordon writes: "Since January 1, 2021, I have officially retired. It was a difficult decision but the time had come.

"I resisted retirement for a long time. You once said that 'the only ones who are still working are the psychiatrists.' Check off one more. Retiring from practice isn't easy. Patients have to be notified, bills to be collected and the 'world' needs to know of the retirement. This includes banks, government agencies and so on.

"As for me, doing fine. Continued to treat patients remotely for a year before retirement, staying in, avoiding even the barber, letting my dyed hair turn its natural white, again curly.

"People ask what my retirement plans are, and the Covid-19 pandemic continues to restrict movement. Can't even go to a restaurant. I don't trust them. My youngest son and grandchildren resupply from the local Costco and food stores. Lots of Amazon. My wife and I are getting bored eating in. Luckily the 'end' is near, so we have both gotten our vaccines.

"Minimal health issues. Knees, impending cataract surgery. Who knows how long I'll live? Does anyone know? My parents both lived well into their 80s. I'm 85.

"Perhaps we'll resume Columbia lunches soon. Anybody interested? I won't have the 'office hours' excuse anymore."

Got a call from **Kenneth Nelson** PS'60 ("Mike" was what we used to call him at Midwood H.S. in Brooklyn). He is hunkered down in Columbia, S.C., where he reports that there is nothing to do; everything is closed. He is retired from practicing neurosurgery and says that the vaccine distribution is chaotic.

Hillel Tobias spends time in the Hamptons, and has retired as

chief of the liver transplant service at NYU.

Bob Lauterborn says that **Steve Easton** suggested he should write about what's happening in his life. Here it is: "I began 2020 with a cruise on the *Grand Princess*, one cruise before 3,533 people were quarantined aboard. My luck continued in February. I was in Hong Kong, on my way to a Habitat for Humanity build in Myanmar, when the news about Covid hit. I was able to duck going back through HK by flying home via Dubai, circumnavigating the globe for only the fourth or fifth time in my well-traveled life. (I've slept at least one night in 85 countries, at last count.) My younger son and I were scheduled to hike the mountains of North Wales (Snowdonia National Park) in May, but of course Covid's spread made that impossible. Plan B was an off-roading adventure in the canyonlands of Utah. Talk about social distancing: We saw more pronghorns than people once we got to Moab. Ditto this year. Wales is put off again until 2022, and plan B is Wyoming.

"Technically, I'm emeritus from UNC-Chapel Hill, but I was happy to write the lead article for the first issue of a new marketing journal published digitally out of Milan in the fall, so I guess I'm not totally irrelevant yet!

"I'm alone again, having lost two great loves to pancreatic cancer, but hope lives on. I can't wait to fall in love again. Know any pretty widows who are 79 or so?"

Allan Hoben is "alive and well in Berkeley, Calif., where he kayaks several times a week, participates in book groups and enjoys socializing with friends. He has left a modest bequest to the College ... but hopes not to die soon."

Martin Mayer LAW'59 has copyrighted a "short but definitive" manual, *Traversing the Commercial Lease Minefield*. It is designed to be a negotiating guide for real estate lawyers and corporate real estate executives who represent commercial tenants.

Complimentary copy to any classmate who fits the aforementioned description.

Morton Jaffe reports from Sussex, N.J., that he exists, and that the Alumni Office could not find his UNI (University Network ID).

Jay Martin checked in to say hello.

Ron Kapon canceled his plans to visit country 150 in 2020, and says, "There are no university wine classes to teach since Fairleigh Dickinson University has been closed. I lost 15 lbs. and volunteer at the West Side JCC. On Tuesdays there is the virtual 'Support Group for 80+.' On Wednesdays I have a student in Jerusalem with whom I speak using WhatsApp, to help him with his English. I also have weekly private yoga classes either in my place or outside (weather depending). It's just me and my 15-year-old cat, Renoir, in my seven rooms."

Frank Neuberger sent a picture of a "ball point souvenir syringe" for completing his second vaccine shot. Says he works out every day.

Murray Watnick worked with the WHO to help bring basic diagnostic imaging capability to the developing world. He writes, "I am now helping the veterans involved in the disastrous nuclear weapons accident in Palomares, Spain, in 1966 seeking compensation for exposure to Plutonium 239 during the cleanup. Having served as a medical officer with the Strategic Air Command enabled me to get involved in this project. Getting drafted during the Cuban Missile Crisis created interesting opportunities. Life certainly takes unusual twists and turns."

Phil Liebson reports, "I read history and cosmology. Especially interested in medieval history that helps me understand the present situation. Regards to all classmates. I still imagine them as they appeared in the 1950s."

Had a wonderful conversation with **Dick Capen**, from San Diego, where he lives with his whole family nearby. After his stint in the Navy, Dick traveled about the country with his newspaper work as the publisher of the *Miami Herald* and other papers, then spent time in the Department of Defense. He happily reports that he is in good health.

I received a note from **Leo Glass**, who writes that he retired from the practice of law 20 years ago and has been a judge in Monticello, N.Y., since. Leo says he doesn't tweet but that he is at 20 Hammond St., Monticello, NY 12701, 845-794-4695.

Jordan Bonfante writes: "Coronavirus defenses at the ready, **Bob Lauterborn**, one of whose

sons lives in Fairfield, and I and my spouse, Viktoria, who live in Old Greenwich, met up in Norwalk, at the mouth of a river into Long Island Sound, for an overdue lunch in February. Reminiscences flowed as freely as the Chardonnay; as randomly as the bar blather at the old West End; and like the lectures of Professor Mark Van Doren GSAS 1920, say. We discussed the comparative charms of selected lasses from Barnard and St. Luke's and the mixed, to say the least, fortunes of the lightweight football team, vintage 1956.

"On that score, there was plentiful boasting about how manly football was in those bygone days, better believe it. Manly, for instance, was the fact that only the helmets of some of the linemen were equipped with facemasks. Rest of you, risk your bloody noses. Manly, too, was the exhausting one-platoon system of play, long before the two-platoon idea materialized in the '70s. You played offense far as it went, and then you stayed on the field and played defense. No regular respite on the bench while the other platoon went at it.

"The team roster was gone over, of course, like a memory test. Lauterborn, especially, could still name the entire starting lineup, 11 of 11. Players like **Steve Easton** at pull guard, and his late lamented twin, Maurice Easton SEAS'57, at blocking back. **Ed Villanueva** and Bill Smith '57, at left and right tackles. Curiously, the one name that came up again and again was that of the team's outstanding tailback: **John Barker**. Curiously, because John, a truly gifted athlete and graceful personality, seems to have disappeared after the College, and his present whereabouts seems to remain unknown to most, if not all, members of the class today. So here's the shoutout of the moment: **JOHN BARKER, JOHN BARKER. WHERE ARE YOU NOW?**"

On a sad note, **Len Wolfe** sent me *The Washington Post* obituary of **Francis C. "Frank" Pasquinelli**, a retired Navy captain. Frank passed away on November 28, 2020, a native of Salem, Mass. He retired from the Navy in 1984 and spent the next 15 years in the private sector supporting various government programs. His second retirement was in 2000. Frank was married to

the former Joanne Sucharski for 63 years. They have three children and four grandchildren. Read more about Frank online in the *Post* (legcy.co/2POu99H) and in this issue's "Obituaries" section.

I'm also sad to report that **John T. Garnjost** BUS'61, a strong supporter of Columbia rowing, died on January 5, 2021. Columbia Athletics's obituary noted that John was a varsity student-athlete as a 1954-56 member of the heavyweight crew. He became a respected rowing official. John was a U.S. Air Force pilot 1956-59 and served in Japan and Taiwan. He spent 24 years working at the New York corporate headquarters of the Bristol-Myers Co. before becoming its managing director, in Malaysia, and president and general manager in Taiwan.

John is survived by his wife of 47 years, Janet; daughters, Alison and Valerie; and Valerie's husband, Matthew Lacy. Read more in Athletics's

Dr. Alan L. Gordon, a psychiatrist, died in New York City on February 27, 2021.

You can read more about Julie and his work in this issue's "Obituaries" section.

Please send your news to me at the email address at the top of the column and I will be pleased to include it in a future issue.

1958

Peter Cohn
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Writing this column in late March, I am pleased that the Covid-19 vaccination rate is finally picking up steam. Although manufacturing and distribution problems remain, I am hopeful that by the time you are reading this issue of *CCT*, the country will be well on its way to achieving herd immunity and July 4

Art Radin, both of whom were fellow musicians in the Columbia University Marching Band and Concert Band, when Columbia had real bands! Art blasted away on his trombone, Joe did the same with his euphonium and I banged away with my snare drum. They were wonderful times."

All spring sports were canceled by the Ivy League. I hope this will not be the case in the fall. Resumption of the class luncheons at the Penn Club is still up in the air.

Please keep sending news items for inclusion in future issues of *CCT*.

1959

Norman Gelfand
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I hope that this finds you all well. The year 2020 was a hard one for all of us and I am sure that we all share the hope that 2021 will be better with a high degree of normalcy.

For some happy news we can thank **Fred Knauer**: "**Ira Jolles** has a granddaughter, Eden Hannah Jolles, born on July 13, 2020, to Ira's son Adam and his wife, Becki."

Len Stein writes, "It appears that an increasing number of our classmates have been dying of late. So to counter this, I've decided to update you on a classmate who is alive and well.

"My name when I was at Columbia College was Leonard 'Lenny' Fink. My name is now Leonard 'Len' Stein. I've been retired from private practice as a clinical psychologist and from my faculty position at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry for the past few years. I am currently clinical professor emeritus in the Department of Psychiatry. I live with my wife, Linda, in Fairport, N.Y., a suburb of Rochester. Linda and I recently received our second Covid-19 vaccination, and we are both relieved to have done so.

"I have a son who lives in West Lafayette, Ind. He is senior manager in charge of quality assurance at a company that manufactures medical and scientific equipment. His wife is chair of the School of Engineering Education at Purdue. I also have two grandchildren in their 20s.

"I enjoy reading literary fiction and nonfiction, including in the areas of

neuroscience, consciousness, philosophy, ethics and morality, and politics."

From **Mike Berlin** JRN'60 we hear, "My wife, Nancy BC'61, and I are fortunate to live in rural Truro on Cape Cod, where we can walk, once or twice a day, along the ocean, the bay — or, if the wind is high, as it often is here — through the pinewoods, sometimes on National Seashore trails. We also do some birdwatching. There are few encounters for which we need to don masks.

"One thing I was able to continue doing despite Covid was reviewing Fulbright applications of Russians who wish to study or practice journalism in the United States. I have been doing this since 1995, after my Fulbright teaching journalism at Moscow State University.

"Zoom has been a godsend. I taught a Zoom discussion course on the news media and the election to 45 people through a local library. (Since my retirement from full-time teaching journalism at Boston University, I have taught similar courses about journalism and politics in person in San Francisco, Seattle and Boston, and on Cape Cod). I exercise on Zoom for an hour three times a week with 15-20 other Truro seniors. I meet twice a week on Zoom to talk politics and sports with 6-8 Truro seniors (since we can't get together at our usual local lunch spot). Once a month I chat about everything and anything over Zoom with 9 or 10 Columbia fraternity brothers from CC'59, spread across four time zones.

"Our family (in Seattle, Portland, Minneapolis and Truro) chooses a recipe every two weeks, and we all view the process and the results on Zoom. Nancy confers weekly over Zoom with fellow artists around the country, discussing books and art issues. They recently had a group show at the University of New Hampshire.

"All things considered, we are content."

Robin Motz informs us, "The only new event is that my two grandchildren went sleigh riding for the first time. They are also both in real school, not virtual. The only family member I am concerned for is my youngest daughter-in-law, who does echocardiograms in a doctor's office and sees 7-10 new, but screened, patients a day. We did get away to Lake George because the Adirondacks are not locked down."

Len Stein '59 taught a Zoom discussion course on the news media and the election through his local library; he has taught similar courses in person.

online obituary (bit.ly/3d9GMVj) and in this issue's "Obituaries."

My wife and I are in Somerset, N.J., in an adult community (they let us in), serving on the advisory committee of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Rutgers and taking adult ed lectures through it, this year by Zoom.

I guess we can start planning for our 70th reunion. (We finally decided on souvenir walking sticks for our 65th.) Think about it!

1957

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Dr. Julius "Julie" Schachter, a microbiologist, died in San Francisco on December 20, 2020. Julie died from Covid-19. You can read more about him in *CCT*'s special online section for alumni who have died from the virus, "Lions We've Lost" (college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/fall-2020/article/lions-weve-lost).

will truly be Independence Day, as President Biden has suggested.

As far as news from classmates is concerned, I am delighted to report that the unique collection of 114 woodcuts of famous and not-so-famous Americans, gathered over multiple decades by **Bob Levine** and his wife, Anne, have been acquired by the High Museum in the heart of Atlanta. Here are some quotations from the museum's December 17, 2020, press release announcing the acquisition: "We are incredibly grateful to the Levines for recognizing our commitment to self-taught art through this generous gift." In the press release, Bob and Anne said, "We started our marriage looking for something to collect together, and our love of American history melded with the craft of wood carving. Traveling all over the country, we searched for objects that have an energy and unique vitality."

Well done, guys!

We also received a nice note from **Lee Kurtz**. He writes: "A belated tribute to the late **Joe Klein** and



From **Jim Thomas** we hear, "I feel very lucky to be able to do the many things I enjoy, especially golf, which I can walk up to 15 holes, and I am active in maintaining our flower gardens. My parents were active and they passed it on to me."

Ralph Wyndrum reports, "Like others, we have been cooped up by medical concerns, and hopeful for the vaccine. During the past year, I accepted a position as director of the Board of the English-Speaking Union's 4,000-member U.S. subsidiary, ESU-US. The enjoyment of humanities, driven home by our years at Columbia, has encouraged me to participate in such organizations since graduation. Many of our classmates would enjoy the activities of ESU-US, with its sizable network of local active chapters across the U.S. This year is the 100th anniversary of the organization. The ESU is dedicated to the celebration of the English language as a global mode of communication enabling international cooperation in fields of culture, communication, science and governmental relations. We sponsor scholarships for recent immigrants; a national Shakespeare competition at the high school level; The Evelyn Wrench National Speaker Program; the \$25,000 Luard Morse Scholarships in traditionally Black colleges; and middle school debates. The programs provide vast opportunities for volunteers' activities, which Columbia alumni would be well prepared to undertake as well as being very enjoyable."

"I both hope and believe that 2021 will evolve into a healthy and economically successful year."

Bernie Pucker has managed to keep busy and productive. "Entering our 15th week of self-quarantine and my wife, Sue, and I are well and safe. We recently celebrated our 61st anniversary. We were married within two weeks of our graduations, Sue from Skidmore. Time passes."

"These weeks of the pandemic and protests have highlighted just how fortunate we have been. We were able to keep the remote gallery functioning and experienced a positive response. Now we have reopened and that excellent interest has continued, which gives me hope that the gallery and some few arts institutions will survive these enormous challenges. We have also worked on 'Reimagining the Gal-

lery' with the added use of technology, for example, Matterport virtual tours (see the present tour online: bit.ly/3dmjqv) and artist presentations that have more than tripled the attendance with the recent Potter's Talk, with Ken Matsuzaki in Mashiko Japan, Professor Andrew Maske in Lexington, Ky., and me in Boston (bit.ly/39sIte). We planned a series of what we are calling 'Webinart' through the balance of 2020. We continue to publish and mail catalogs but they are also available as e-catalogs, for example, this Sam Bak Ongoing Conversation (bit.ly/3mccvQJB). Finally, we share an amazing event, Take a Bow with Benoit Rolland, a MacArthur prize winner (bit.ly/3frkDU1) and Yo Yo Ma."

Allen Klein writes, "Like it has for all alumni, the pandemic has ruled our lives for the past year; Carol, my wife of 60 years, and I have been sequestered in Florida and have not returned to our D.C. home in that entire time. Like other alumni, we did not plan for this interruption to my retirement from a long career in Schlumberger Accounting Services and tax consulting. After a year of sedentary living, we look forward to our rejoining civilization in D.C. soon. One recent ray of sunshine has given us some joy: Our daughter, Jennifer Klein LAW'90 (and '87 Brown) will co-chair the recently formed White House Gender Policy Council. She has had a distinguished career involved with policy issues affecting women and girls since joining Hillary Clinton during the Clinton administration. We are very proud of her accomplishments and look forward to her continuing contributions in her chosen endeavor. Following the necessity for repairs from the last administration, we fully support her efforts."

Bruch Schlein notes, "As I get older, I am hearing about more of my Columbia friends passing, but fortunately my family has soldiered on."

"I am still teaching photography and my wife, Alice, is teaching weaving at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute program at Furman University, listening to lots of music and still actively having fun. Our older son, Willy, is practicing architecture as director of medical planning and works out of Greenville, S.C., right near where we are

living, and our younger son, Erik, attends the CUNY School of Law. Here is the link to my photo blog: cameralucidity.wordpress.com."

Since our last communication with each other via these pages I have learned of the deaths of **Tom Bilbao** on December 21, 2020; **Clive Chajet** on February 3, 2021; **Raphael "Ray" Schenk** on February 7, 2021; **J. Peter Rosenfeld** on February 16, 2021; and **Frederick Lorber** on February 24, 2021. They are and will be missed. May their memory be for a blessing. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

A final word from your class correspondent: If you do not receive emails from me, please send me your email address, and also please send it to the Alumni Office: email cct@columbia.edu, or submit it via the [webform college.columbia.edu/cct/update_contact_info](https://webform.college.columbia.edu/cct/update_contact_info). Thank you.

1960

Robert A. Machleder
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Ivan Vamos GSAPP'65 is twice retired and living with his wife of 55 years, Rietje, just north of Albany with "a cherished lakeside camp nearby." They are the parents of three and grandparents of five, who are "spread across nine time zones."

Following his post-NROTC service in the Navy, Ivan was a geologist and geophysicist for a Westchester firm that provided geotechnical services. "I did seismic work to identify construction site problems, resources, water-well development for IBM and lots of the work for new interstate highways, and tunnel and mine shaft projects in Australia." When the company experienced financial difficulties, Ivan entered graduate school, earned a master's in urban planning and began working for New York State "intending to stay a few years learning the advanced technology that had been developed." This engagement continued, however, with a wide range of projects until his retirement three decades later.

Ivan began at the department responsible for developing highway systems and the canals that spanned many upstate cities. "After a few years I transferred to the Conservation Department," he says. "I

developed statewide plans for outdoor recreation, parkways and trails. New York State Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation became a separate agency and I held various positions within that agency, culminating in an appointment as deputy commissioner in charge of planning, engineering, environmental issues and land acquisition. Practically every project involved interesting and challenging issues."

"The 1972 Outdoor Recreation Plan included the Canals Recreation Way system, a 500-mile trail system along the 1917 and older canal routes. The last phases of these projects, now called Greenways, are still being advanced at this date, culminating 50 years of work. Plans for establishing 'harbors of refuge' along the Great Lakes had been authorized several decades before I was tasked to get them done. I worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and other parties including the Seneca Nation (a memorable negotiation). Five new harbors, and the improvement of many others, were completed before I retired."

"After several damaging storms I was assigned by the New York State Disaster Preparedness Commission to develop policies and projects to protect the New York State barrier beaches and islands. Projects were designed and protective sand management projects were undertaken. This work was successful in temporarily protecting New York coastal resources for several decades."

"We also acquired major new parks such as Minniwaska State Park Preserve. One of the parks we built required years of planning, design, engineering and negotiation that I managed. That was Riverbank State Park, located on the roof of the North River Wastewater Treatment Plant on the Hudson River."

Riverbank, completed and opened in 1993, is an extraordinary 28-acre facility on Henry Hudson Parkway that runs from West 137th to West 145th Street, with an extensive athletics complex that includes an Olympic-size pool, roller- and ice-skating rink, theater and restaurants."

After retiring in 1994, Ivan spent another 25 years doing consultant work. "I did coastal protection, transportation studies and designs, brownfield restoration, a study of swimming beaches along the Hudson and analysis of the

polychlorinated biphenyls on the Upper Hudson and other projects. I also did pro bono projects regarding coastal erosion and outreach for the UN Conference of Small Island Developing States."

An avid cyclist and skier, Ivan "was for more than 35 years on the National Ski Patrol, and several trail and bicycling groups."

Another activity occupies Ivan. "As a Holocaust survivor who fled Budapest, Hungary, with my mother, I give talks primarily to school groups about my recollections of those early years. I've occasionally run into another survivor, **Steven Hess**, who gives such talks in Upstate New York."

Three concluding notes have necessitated deferral of a related submission by **Stephen Ollendorff** — as well as more about Ivan's engagement as a Holocaust educator and the story of his recent trip to the radar site on the Distant Early Warning Line in Iceland, where he was officer in charge during his naval tour of duty — a story of particular interest as I worked as a civilian on the DEW Line in Sondrestrom, Greenland, at the same time, immediately before entering law school.

This column ends on three sad notes.

The Winter 2020–21 column concluded with a post by **Victor Chang**, an incisive, passionate reflection on the tragedy of the pandemic, its devastating impact on the economy and the steps needed to repair it, which he wanted to share with classmates. It was one of the

daily narratives he had been writing while "sheltering in place" in New York, awaiting return with his wife, Lily, to their California residence; narratives that he was writing for his son, daughter and grandchildren.

On December 3, **Art Delmhorst**, who distributes a monthly reminder to attendees at our First Thursday of the Month Luncheons — which have now taken the form of "virtual" Zoom gatherings — received and distributed to attendees the following: "I am Lily Chang, Victor Chang's wife. I am sad to report Victor passed away on October 30 [2020,] at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital from Covid-19. He loved to attend 60C luncheons whenever he was in New York. I am sure he will try to be there in spirit."

Art's reaction to this stunning news read, "Victor usually spent half the year in New York and half in California. When in New York, he would come to nearly all our luncheons at the Columbia/Princeton Club. I found he had a quiet wisdom that always kept me interested in what he was saying at the moment. I will miss him greatly and I think so will those of you who also knew him well."

On behalf of the luncheon attendees, **Josh Pruzansky** made contact with Victor's daughter to establish the funding of donations in Victor's memory, noting, "A great loss. He was a very special guy. Gentle demeanor and a smart contributor to all conversations." Josh reported that he had made a contribution in Victor's memory to the Columbia College Fund and that others might consider doing likewise (college.givenow.columbia.edu).

This was my response to Art's email: "When I opened my computer this afternoon, checked my emails and saw your note, I was shocked and heartbroken. I couldn't respond immediately to acknowledge receipt, as for most of the afternoon I had recurrent thoughts reflecting on the aspects of Victor's mind and character that made him such a special person. Thoughtful, incisive, intelligent, with a manifest abundance of decency. Unbelievable! In a year as horrific as this, it is so much more painful to absorb the loss of a dear friend. Victor's passing is a terrible loss; he will indeed be missed."

Victor was truly an exemplary person, and the inescapable thought is that as and when our luncheons

return to actual gatherings, his absence will be an immediate, moving and recurrent reminder of our loss.

On January 23, 2021, I received this email from Eileen Simon BC'58: "I am sad to report that **Eckehard Simon**, your classmate and my husband, passed away on May 2, 2020, from coronavirus. After Columbia he attended graduate school at Harvard, then was a professor at Harvard for 45 years, in the German department. You may remember that he entered Columbia as a recent immigrant from East Germany, with a far better command of Russian than English. Nevertheless he was awarded Phi Beta Kappa in his junior year. I met him at Barnard College, where he helped tutor me through the year of German required for chemistry majors."

The following has been written about Eckehard: "Despite his modest demeanor, he was a brilliant speaker and a distinguished scholar who published six books and numerous essays. His teaching of both undergraduate and graduate students focused on two special fields: the German medieval court and its literature, and the emergence of theater and performance in medieval German settings. He received awards from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Fulbright Foundation. He established himself as a towering figure in medieval studies."

Don Patterson passed away on June 27, 2020. After graduation, Don served in the National Guard before moving to New Jersey to own and operate Desire Mills in Paterson, N.J. After a long career in the textile industry, he started a new career in furniture sales and then as a commercial real estate agent. Don is survived by his wife, Sherry; son; two daughters; and three grandchildren.

RIP Victor, Eckehard and Don. Know that your lives profoundly enriched this Class of '60. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

1961

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February 24, 2021, marked the 80th anniversary of WKCR's first broadcast. In our graduation year we celebrated the 20th anniversary with

a production of *Spotlight Columbia*, which was rebroadcast on the NBC radio network's *Extracurricular*. **Art Wisot**, the station's program director, produced and narrated the program. For the 80th, Art digitized the 20th *Spotlight Columbia* and presented it to the station for its archives.

Art's experience at WKCR led to a second career in the media, in addition to his ob/gyn and reproductive endocrinology practices. While in college and medical school he worked part time at WNEW and passed the position off to numerous succeeding WKCR members. Art was the medical reporter on Channel 9 in Los Angeles and the medical editor and on-air host of a number of programs on *LIFETIME Medical Television*, and he co-authored several books on in vitro fertilization.

Art and his wife, Phyllis, are retired in Rolling Hills Estates, Calif., where he volunteers on city and local hospital committees.

Stuart Newman LAW'64's wife, Joyce, has retired from her medical practice. She spent the last two years helping to design, build and furnish their new second home on the North Fork of Long Island. Stuart is still in active law practice because he enjoys it, he says. Since the start of Covid-19, Stuart and **Herman Kane**, plus two mutual friends, have been holding a weekly video conference to exchange views on all those things important to men our age.

Don Savini and his family have been hunkered down on their farm in Amish country, central Pennsylvania. They are safe so far, and received their second vaccine shots in early March.

Leonard Silverman's grandchildren are third-generation Columbians: daughter Sarah Silverman Aibel '92's children, grandson Alexander Aibel '23 and granddaughter Madeline Aibel '25.

Leonard is now fully retired from the University of Southern California, where he was a faculty member in electrical engineering for 52 years. For 17 of those years, he was also dean of the Viterbi School of Engineering.

Bob Salzman LAW'64 is involved in the campaign to reelect Gov. Phil Murphy (D-N.J.). In 2021, only New Jersey and Virginia will be holding elections for governor. Bob participated with a number of classmates in planning Zoom events



Contact CCT

Update your address, email or phone; submit a Class Note, new book, photo, obituary or Letter to the Editor; or send us an email. Click "Contact Us" at college.columbia.edu/cct.



for our 60th reunion this past spring. His oldest granddaughter, Sydney, who has a master's and is a registered dietician, works in a private practice in Connecticut. His granddaughter Taylor is in a management position for Target in New York City. His grandson Jack finished his second year at Wharton, and his youngest granddaughter, Mackenzie, is deciding among several excellent schools for college in the fall. On June 16, Bob and his wife, Reva, celebrated their 58th anniversary.

Barry McCallion writes that last year this time he was in Costa Rica. Not so this go-around. Barry wrote an article for the May/June issue of *FIRSTS: The Book Collector's Magazine*, "Regarding Beowulf," in which he described the making of an artist's book.

Gene Milone attended a workshop, "Habitable Worlds," in March. "The one habitable world we know about is Earth. Is there any question that indifference to global warming and cutbacks to pollution alleviation during the last few years have made Earth less habitable? The carbon dioxide content of our atmosphere and the mean surface temperature continue to rise, and until agencies designed to protect the environment are able to act unimpeded, pollutants and contaminants will continue to threaten global health.

"The Jovian moons Europa, Ganymede and Callisto, and at least one Saturnian moon (Enceladus), have sub-surface oceans but of undetermined extents. Many planets with similar mass to Earth are found in regions around their stars where water has the possibility of being found in a liquid state — the so-called 'habitable zone.' Some of these stars are like the Sun but many more are red dwarfs, and their habitable zones sometimes contain more than one Earth analog.

"No definite Edens so far, but there is a lot of promise that there could well be many habitable worlds."

Canada, where Gene lives, negotiated to get an enormous number of vaccine vials (many of which were earmarked for third-world countries), but in practice, it is behind several other countries in the actual number of vaccinations performed to date. In Alberta, the over-75 cohort was invited to apply in late February, but the number applying overwhelmed the server

and telephone service set up by the provincial government. After many hours of trying, Gene and his wife managed to get booked for both shots, starting in March.

Meanwhile, the frontline workers who are keeping them fed, and providing important everyday services, will be waiting for an indefinite period.

Ed Auzenberg SEAS'63, BUS'64 will be included in *Marquis Who's Who* 2021 personnel profile. Annually, *Marquis Magazine* identifies several thousand people in the United States, and uses that list for its own promotions and publicity. Ed was included based on his successful auto industry manufacturing career at TRW. He worked in various capacities for TRW for more than 30 years, the last being VP in its Steering, Suspension and Engine Group, which had 67 plants in 20 countries. Ed's responsibilities included planning, business development and capital investments.

Richard Neel's mother, Alice Neel (1900–84), was a well-known artist. Running from March 22 through August 1 at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, *Alice Neel: People Come First* (metmuseum.org/exhibitions/listings/2021/alice-neel), will be the first museum retrospective in New York of Alice in 20 years. This ambitious survey positions her as one of the century's most radical painters, a champion of social justice whose longstanding commitment to humanist principles inspired her life as well as her art, as demonstrated in approximately 100 paintings, drawings and watercolors. It will next travel to the Guggenheim in Balboa, Spain, and finally to The D Young museum in San Francisco.

Hillel Hoffman SEAS'62, LAW'65 retired in 2002 from the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office, where he was a DDA for 12 years. He stayed on as a pro bono volunteer until 2013. Hillel remains active in the Criminal Justice Sections of the American Bar Association and the New York State Bar Association. He is also a member of the Legislative Committee of the New York State District Attorneys Association. In December 2020, Hillel chaired a webinar for the ABA on Red Flag Laws, which are designed to remove weapons from people who are a danger to themselves or others.

Hillel and his wife, Helen, enjoy visiting their daughter, son-in-law

and three grandchildren in Arlington, Mass. They are counting the days until the pandemic ends so they can resume traveling and visiting friends.

There is also some sad news to report.

Dr. Nat Reich PS'65 passed away on March 6, 2021. Cause of death was uncertain but was related to pneumonia brought on by several strokes that were not Covid-19 related. Nat was a greatly admired, internationally recognized cardiologist who pioneered the use of ultrasound and MRI in cardiac assessment and had just retired as director of cardiac research at St. Francis Hospital on Long Island. He was national leader in cardiology, a researcher with 180 peer-reviewed publications, a clinician beloved by his patients, a teacher and mentor to many residents and students, and most of all was a loving husband, father and grandfather.

Morris Dickstein, a literary critic, cultural historian and CUNY professor who was among the last of the first generation of Jewish public intellectuals reared on the Lower East Side, died on March 24, 2021, at his home in NYC. His daughter, Rachel Dickstein, said the cause was complications of Parkinson's disease.

Morris was a distinguished professor of English, theater and performance, and liberal studies at the CUNY Graduate Center, where he also founded the Center for the Humanities in 1993. He frequently wrote for *The Times Literary Supplement* in Britain and *The New York Times Book Review*, among other publications. He also wrote film criticism for *Partisan Review*. In addition to his daughter, Morris is survived by his wife, Lore Willner Dickstein; son, Jeremy '88; four grandchildren; and sister, Doris Feinberg [Editor's note: See "Obituaries" for more on Dickstein.]

1962

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Your responses to my October email were so numerous and interesting that all of them would not fit into the Winter 2020–21 report. Here are the eight I had to omit:

Bernie Patten PS'66 wrote that he and his wife, Ethel BC'63,

were having fun in isolation at her beachfront home in Galveston, Texas. Mornings find her knitting or studying French while he plays the piano. In October Bernie was working on Mussorgsky's masterpiece, "Pictures at an Exhibition." If you wish to see what he now looks like and hear him play, go to the YouTube channel Bernard Patten (youtube.com/user/SuperMickey8888). In the afternoon Bernie and Ethel hit the beach and enjoy the surf, which is much bigger and better than Jones Beach. Usually Bernie spends an hour working on his latest book (currently *Making Mental Might: How to look ten times smarter than you are*), based on the course in mental gymnastics that he taught at Rice for 17 years. His latest book-like object, *The Search of Tristan and Iseult*, finally found a publisher after years of searching and 127 rejections. It has sold 23 copies, most of which were purchased by Bernie's mother, who says it is "fantastic" even though she hasn't yet read it. Bernie has also published a medical memoir and an informal history of growing up in Queens without much adult supervision. Five of his publications have been made into audiobooks. They have sold more than 10 times better than his printed books, except for his logic book in Chinese, which is still a bestseller in China. "So, in general," Bernie writes, "we have returned to the primacy of speech as Dean Carl Hovde '50 predicted in 1960.

"Some of the polite terms that we scientists use to describe the policies of Donald Trump are disastrous, damaging, catastrophic. His handling of the pandemic, his repeated dismissal of science and his disdain for evidence make him the most anti-scientific President in recent history. Ethel has registered hundreds of new voters, and she and I have hit the streets campaigning for Democrats. I hope our efforts will not be in vain."

Larry Gaston (Indiana) says a few fellow Johnson Hall waiters are still around: **John Joyce** (Maryland), **Rich Wright** (Arizona), **Ron Meyer** (Colorado) and **Bill Davidson** (Connecticut). "We're all retired and swinging, albeit a bit slower," Larry writes.

Daniel Fife has become a grandfather, which to him means, "I have a responsibility to my grandchildren to see that our climate-change-denier-in-chief gets the boot in the coming

election. Though I'm still working, I'm starting to feel there are better ways to use my time — a little teaching or preventing the world from overheating or overpopulating."

John Garman and his wife, Nancy, canceled a May 2020 Columbia River cruise and rescheduled it for this June. Fortunately, they, their two children and five grandkids are healthy. John voted by mail and then stopped reading or listening to "all current election nonsense. Boy, is it quiet!"

"My wife and I just came back from our evening walk with our two

Alejandra, is a physician, board-certified in both internal medicine and pediatrics, and in the final year of a fellowship in public health at Johns Hopkins.

On December 14, 2020, the Susan and Sanford Greenberg Prize to End Blindness, named for **Sanford Greenberg** BUS'67, honored 13 visionary scientists for exemplary advances in the fight to end blindness. Three million dollars was awarded. The streamed ceremony featured **Art Garfunkel**, Margaret Atwood, Al Gore, Michael Bloomberg and Grammy-winning

of dying. Now being alone — my wife died recently from breast cancer — I spend my leisure rereading the literature I met in our Humanities classes. It has been a life-sustaining experience and has reduced my unhappiness. So has corresponding with my two sons and **Joel Goldman** and **Irving Weissman**."

Marty Erdheim's wife, Joan, is a psychoanalyst, and they split their time among Fairfield, Conn., New York City and Sun Valley, Idaho. Their daughter Cara Kilgallen is chair of the language and literature department and a tenured professor at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield. She lives in Trumbull with her husband, Bill, and their son. Cara was a 2006 adult ladies gold national figure skating champion with The Skating Club of New York. Daughter Anna is in the real estate business and lives in Westport with her husband, Geoff, and two children. She was 2006 captain of the women's tennis team at Colby College. Marty is in regular email contact with **Al Wax** and **Al Small**, and often sees **Bart Nisonson** and his wife, Nancy.

and a half months he was released, having survived a severe case. Happily, he is recovered with no long-term effects.

David Stern asked to join our Zoom lunches. "I moved to Los Angeles in 1969. Don't get back to New York as often as I should and so have missed the in-person class meetings. I practiced as a gastroenterologist for 30 years. Spent a year in retirement. Returned to medicine. Retrained. Practiced as a geriatrician caring for frail elderly for another 20 years. Now I spend my mornings hiking the local hills. I can step out of my front door to do so. No snow here. Later, online bridge almost daily helps to keep my brain active. But, I can alter my usual routine and would love to participate."

Continuing the note from **Paul Lehrer** in the last issue: "In my early graduate school years, maybe because of my own experience with anxiety and my interest in learning to use my body better in playing the violin, I developed an interest in relaxation and stress management methods.

"I wrote my dissertation in the field, and have been studying and practicing it ever since. Early in [2021] the fourth edition of my book, *Principles and Practice of Stress Management*, will be released. The volume has become a standard text for researchers and psychotherapists and for people working on this topic. I have had the privilege of teaching psychotherapy to both psychiatric residents and clinical psychology graduate students at Rutgers for most of my career.

"About 25 years ago, travels to see our son took us to St. Petersburg, Russia, where he was studying as part of his Columbia program.

"There, I found people experimenting with an interesting way of teaching people to increase their heart rate variability by breathing at a particularly slow rate, a resonance frequency for the cardiovascular system. This piqued my interest, because higher heart rate variability correlates with many indices of health, emotional stability, fitness and athletic prowess. I took this method home, and, together with a Russian colleague whom I attracted to Rutgers, did the seminal research on how this method works and how it can help people improve human performance and ameliorate a host of physical and emotional problems. An industry of

Alan Barnes '62, at 79, is still working three days a week as a psychiatrist. He tried retirement briefly but says he didn't care for it: "I got lazy."

little, white, fluffy dogs," writes **Russ Abbott**. "One thing that strikes me is that I'm an old codger. Never thought of myself like that — and still don't. I've been teaching computer science at Cal State University, Los Angeles for more than 45 years. I like not having to commute! The way we teach now is perhaps better than the traditional face-to-face style. The struggle is to maintain contact with students. Zoom, of course, is the answer to everything!"

From Oakland, Calif., **Bob Meyers** writes: "From these wooded hills above what's now called an 'urban wildlands interface,' 'California Dreamin' now has nightmare components. Due to recurring dry winds, born of climate change, the electric company is preemptively shutting off power to parts of Oakland, including our neighborhood. Our car is packed with supplies in case we must evacuate tonight. Otherwise, we're looking forward to the election being over, perhaps a vaccine in 2021 and return of our delayed annual rainy season. It's a stressful time."

In October, **Alan Barnes** wrote that he was feeling hopeful, but anxious, as the momentous election of 2020 approached; it turned out as he wished, with Biden as our President. He continues: "At 79, I work three days a week as a psychiatrist. I tried retirement briefly and didn't care for it; got lazy." Alan's daughter,

jazz artist Diane Schuur, with a tribute to Sandy's friend and neighbor, Ruth Bader Ginsburg LAW'59.

Two months after the January 6 attack on the nation's Capitol building, **Chris Haakon** wrote, "Washington, D.C., and the Capitol are now fortresses armed with the National Guard. Very sad to see. Huge overreaction. We are still hunkered down and staying safe, which is the only positive news."

Also in early March, **Daniel Fife** wrote again, saying, "It's hard to know what to say about Covid-19 except that my family and I are cheered by the fact that we now have a federal government that takes it seriously, and three companies that are busily manufacturing vaccines. We're lucky. Between the advanced ages that my wife and I have and the jobs that the younger adults have, all the adults in my family are either vaccinated or soon to be vaccinated. Farther back in the line for vaccination are the lower-paid public-facing folks, who make it possible for the rest of us to spend time in our homes."

Roman Kernitsky says that his ophthalmological practice had to shut down for two months due to Covid, but as of early March it was slowly regaining steam. He was able to get his two Pfizer shots in February, "thanks to Trump's Warp Speed program, and therefore was able to see patients with no real risk

1963

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We are getting closer to returning to normal, but Covid-19 is not over. Although most of the classmates who have reached out to me have received their vaccinations and are looking forward to traveling and visiting family, **David Alpern** discovered that he had contracted the virus just three days after getting his first dose of Pfizer. Bad timing! Thankfully, after receiving a monoclonal infusion, he, and his wife, Sylvia, are doing well.

Twenty to 25 classmates have been meeting every week on Zoom in a virtual class lunch. It continues to be a rewarding experience, or at least a happy diversion. It is a pleasure to see familiar faces gathering from all over the world (**Larry Neuman** signs in from Tel Aviv). Please email me, and I will invite you to join us.

Harvey Schneier reported at the last Zoom lunch that it was the one-year anniversary of his hospital admission with Covid. After three



device and software creators has since developed for this application, and the method of heart rate variability biofeedback is now used by many psychotherapists, physicians, physical therapists and athletic coaches, with hundreds of research papers attesting to its benefits.

"I am now editor-in-chief of the scientific journal *Applied Psychophysiology and Biofeedback*, opening a small private psychotherapy practice near my home, continuing to write papers in my field and hoping to spend a bit more time reading, practicing the violin and spending more time with my family."

Our previous class correspondent, **Sidney Kadish**, writes that he has been a volunteer vaccinator for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health in an effort to defeat the pandemic. He adds, "A comment on **Bernie Kabak's** note in the Winter 2020–21 column: It is clear that Bernie had a robust and meaningful relationship with his advisor. I did not, and effectively, I served as my own advisor. My best move was to register for the Shakespeare survey course taught by Professor Andrew Chiappe CC 1933, GSAS'39 in my junior year. After mastering Elizabethan English in two months, I was able to enter the wondrous world of the Elizabethan era. I fell hopelessly in love. After the survey course, where we read all the plays, I took Professor Chiappe's senior seminar in Elizabethan drama. In the fall, we read Shakespeare's contemporaries, and in the spring, we studied *King Lear* line by line with commentaries, much like sacred scripture. For me, it was the cherry atop the sundae of my Columbia education."

Peter Belfiore sent me this reminiscence last July about the late **Paul Reale** GSAS'67, and unfortunately, I lost it in my mail folder. "Paul Reale (1943–2020), a prolific composer of orchestral, chamber, dramatic and choral music, passed away on July 22 in Canoga Park, Calif. Paul and I met during our senior year at Columbia. By the next year we were rooming together and working on an opera based on our version of Sophocles's *Oedipus Rex*. We used a draft of a short play of mine, which we developed as a libretto as our ideas and Paul's music developed through the piece. Paul, who had majored in English and chemistry at the College, was studying composition privately

with Chou Wen-Chung GSAS'54, who taught for years at Columbia. I graduated with a concentration in philosophy, and was now a graduate student in the philosophy department. Even then Paul's music was fascinating and really good. And it was pleasant to awaken in the morning to Paul's composing a piece at the piano or practicing a Beethoven sonata.

"After Paul earned a Ph.D. in composition from Penn, studying with George Rochberg and George Crumb, he taught composition for many years at UCLA. The core of his life was his composing, and his astonishing works, many of which are readily available on the Naxos Records label, and other labels, show him to be one of America's great composers. Although much influenced by another great American composer, Charles Ives (1874–1954), Paul quickly enough found his own voice, and his work has opened up realms of conversation (I often think of great music as a kind of sublime conversation), thought and being that would not have been accessible to us but for his work.

"Although I have always loved music and had listened to plenty by the time I got to Columbia, Paul introduced me to yet more. In our later time in California, we even played violin and piano sonatas now and again (Beethoven and Mozart), which I dare say required much tact and perseverance on Paul's part, given the decidedly less than virtuosic technique of his partner. Even so, we had a grand time.

"On April 26, 1965, Paul and I were in the audience at the now old Carnegie Hall for the world premiere of a complete performance of Ives's miraculous, monumental *Fourth Symphony* (Stokowski and the American Symphony Orchestra). Ives — to this day in 2020 still not properly appreciated and understood, it seems to me — had already been dead for 11 years, with his *Fourth Symphony* having been completed by perhaps 1923. I like to imagine, at times, in moments of kind fantasy, that somewhere, in some manner, those two young guys from Columbia are again at Carnegie Hall in 1965 hearing that performance.

"I'd like to quote from my last email to Paul shortly before the end. It turned out to be a last wave goodbye, and says, or tries to, in my clumsy fashion, how I feel about him and his

life's work: 'My love and thoughts and admiration are always with you. You have given so much to so many people, both for today and for future generations. Whenever people seek joy and solace and the delight of conversation sometimes lightsome and often profound, your music will be there for them. What more can a human being achieve and give.'

"We will miss Paul Reale profoundly, but listen: His music is there for us. Listen."

Peter Landecker writes, "Here are a few highlights from my life: I earned a Ph. D. in experimental physics from Cornell. My first post-doc was at Cornell in cosmic ray physics. My second post-doc was at UC Irvine, where I was operating and analyzing data from a neutrino experiment at the bottom of the deepest mine in the world, in South Africa. I then was project scientist and in charge of a solar and stellar X-ray satellite experiment at Columbia, which flew on the Orbiting Solar Observatory. I was then principal investigator of another solar X-ray satellite experiment while I was at The Aerospace Corp. I logged more than 2,200 scuba dives and more than 1,900 underwater hours in 36 countries. I traveled to 113 countries and spent a total of more than five years living abroad. I play violin in an orchestra near my home in Manhattan Beach, Calif. I am a member of the International Astronomical Union and the American Physical Society. More about me is available online: tinyurl.com/pblandecker."

Once this is over and you're back in NYC, you can reconnect with classmates at our regular second Thursday class lunches at the Columbia Club (we will still gather at the Princeton Club). I'm a pessimist but hoping we might be able to meet on June 10, and then on July 8. In any case, we will continue to meet virtually on Zoom every Thursday at 12:30 p.m.

In the meantime, please let us know what you are up to, how you're doing and what's next. Stay safe!

1964

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I started the last three Class Notes expressing the hope that by the time the column appears in CCT society's

lot in the time of a pandemic will have improved. Alas, my hopes were dashed. More than 550,000 Americans have died from the virus and many millions more are infected.

But as I write at the end of March there are reasons for optimism: More and more people are being vaccinated. But it must be cautious optimism. Distribution of the vaccines has been uneven, there is much vaccine hesitancy, many have let down their guard and public health officials warn of virus mutations. I again express the hope that when this column appears society's lot will have improved.

I received my two shots of the Pfizer vaccine at the Fort Washington Avenue Armory in Manhattan, a major venue for track and field events. The Columbia University Medical Center/New York Presbyterian Hospital had commandeered it for vaccinations. It took a while for me to get an appointment but the program was impressive: The running track around the armory was intact but the infield was a warren of tables where the vaccine was administered; it included a large area where people could sit for the obligatory 15 minutes to be sure there was no adverse reaction. On the day of my first shot 1,800 people were vaccinated — I was told it was "a slow day" — and on the day of my second shot 2,500 people were vaccinated. I remain careful: I wear a mask in public places and continue to practice social distancing.

Rich Muller writes from California that he was enjoying the Class Notes in the Winter 2020–21 issue when he "felt guilty" that he had not written. Rich is retired from UC Berkeley, where he taught his famous course, "Physics for Future Presidents."

Rich writes: "I retired in 2010, but have been much busier since. My latest is a new company, Deep Isolation. My CEO (and boss) is my daughter Elizabeth ('Liz'). We have developed a method for the disposal of high-level nuclear waste, and we are engaging with countries around the world to get them to adopt our method.

"My most recent book is *Now: The Physics of Time*. Aside from describing what we know about time (including relativity theory and quantum physics), I propose an explanation for why the 'now' keeps moving. My two prior books are *Physics for Future Presidents* and

Energy for Future Presidents: The Science Behind the Headlines, both an outgrowth of the course I developed at Berkeley.

"I am celebrating my 54th wedding anniversary to Rosemary. I have two grandchildren, ages 6 and 10, and Rosemary and I are tutoring them during this period when schools are closed. She tutors math; I tutor science and writing. We had planned a family backpack trip to Saddlebag Lake, just east of Yosemite, but had to cancel it because of fires and smoke."

I am saddened to report the deaths of two classmates. **Bill Davis** has died of Covid-19. I did not know Bill at the College but I did meet him at reunions, and I remember a kind, friendly and witty man. Bill came to Columbia from Pitcher, a small town in Upstate New York. He was a psychology major and a member of Columbia University College Republicans.

After graduation, Bill's politics moved to the left. He began working at the New York City Department of Social Welfare (now Social Services), was drafted into the Army and was stationed at a military hospital in Germany working with soldiers with mental health issues. Upon his discharge he returned to the Department of Welfare and upon his retirement in 1995 he was the supervisor of the tuberculosis unit at the 30th Street/Bellevue Men's Shelter.

In 1971 Bill joined the Communist Party USA. In 2007 he told an interviewer, "I began seeking a political organization which would deal with the social and economic problems I saw in the U.S. I joined the Communist Party USA after meeting comrades active in my union." He was later elected to the CPUSA National Board and National Committee and was the party's New York District Organizer.

Bill's bequest directs that an upstate 18-acre woodlot be returned to the Onondaga Nation, and he donated his personal papers to the Tamiment Library at NYU, which houses the CPUSA archives. Bill has a daughter, Angela '92, and his first wife, Joan Feder-Davis, is SEAS'65. Donations in his memory can be made to the People's World, Veterans for Peace NYC Chapter 34, and the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

Jerry Zupnick reports the death of his dear friend **Steve Yavers**.

The two grew up in Great Neck, N.Y., and roomed together for four years at the College. At this writing I am waiting for more information about Steve, and will include it in the next issue.

Finally, *CCT* has a special online obituaries section for College graduates who have died of Covid: college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/fall-2020/article/lions-weve-lost.

Requiescat in pace.

1965

Leonard Pack
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Marty Blank sent a great note: "After all these years I thought it might be appropriate to give my classmates a little update. So here you go:

"Writing about what has happened over these many years since I left Columbia takes me on a long journey. My post-Columbia story started in the Bootheel of Missouri, where I was the AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer. I worked with DELMO Housing Corp., which was formed in 1939 in the wake of roadside demonstration by an integrated group of sharecroppers who were thrown off the land when mechanization began. Later I helped to organize an education and training program for migrant and seasonal farmworkers and was stunned to learn how many people still were signing their names with an X.

"I was privileged to be a colleague and friend of Gussie Turner, the mother of the second Black Miss America, Debbye Turner. Gussie returned to her mother's home in Kennett, Mo., while her husband served as a major in Vietnam.

"Family expectations led me back to Washington, D.C., where I started law school at Georgetown at night. I finished after four years, marrying my wife of now 51 years, Helen Kaminiski, a Detroit native, along the way.

"While in law school I worked with the Peoples Involvement Corp. in the Shaw neighborhood of Northwest Washington, D.C., during the time of the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. I never practiced law.

"A long relationship then began with Al Nellum, the first African

American to open a consulting firm in the country at the time of the war on poverty. I worked with Al for much of the next 20 years on projects related to minority business development, substance abuse and housing and community development. I was honored to be present at the first Congressional Black Caucus fundraising event, in 1971, which Al's firm, Al Nellum and Associates, instigated and organized. Ossie Davis said, 'It's the plan, not the man.'

"In the late 1980s I found myself at the Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL), a small entrepreneurial nonprofit, where I begin to work on the nexus between schools and community. The relationship between school and community has been torn apart by the narrow focus on academics in the last 30 years; it's a gulf that must be bridged if we're going to deal with the issues of equity and race that our society faces. I did my part in that regard as the founding director of the Coalition for Community Schools, an alliance of organizations that advocates for schools as vital centers of our communities, where students, their families and residents get the resources and opportunities that every kid in America deserves. I became the president of IEL in 2010, retiring as president in 2017.

"I'm now working with colleagues on a book about community schools that I hope will help make the case that community schools are essential all across the country.

"Along the way I helped my synagogue, Adas Israel Congregation in Washington, D.C., organize the first synagogue-sponsored home for homeless women, the Anne Frank House. That led me to more work on the affordable housing problem and the creation of YACHAD, the Jewish community and housing development organization. I'm proud that both of these organizations continue to address our nation's housing crisis.

"I now am on the board of Literacy Council of Montgomery County, where I am thrilled to be working with Gabriel Martinez Cabrera GS'99, who is the executive director. I stay connected to Columbia through my participation in a study group that has been rereading the Lit Hum curriculum for several years and my hope for the revitalization of the Columbia University Marching Band, the 'cleverest band in the world.'

"Helen devoted her career to improving childcare and early education, and to low-income children and families. She spent 24 years at the Children's Defense Fund and then 16 more at the National Women's Law Center. Even in retirement she is a tireless advocate.

"My older daughter, Liza, a social worker, is a therapist in Brooklyn after years of working for organizations supporting children and families. Her sister, Moly, was a filmmaker in South Africa for many years; we were lucky to visit this extraordinary place several times. Moly now works with Girl Rising, helping enhance the life chances of girls and young women.

"I'd be delighted to hear from folks at blank.martin1@gmail.com."

When I last wrote about **Larry Guido**, I reported that he and his partner, Judith Kaplan, were spending a lot of time at Judy's apartment in Paris. Their European real estate empire is expanding. In February, Larry and Judy "purchased an apartment in the Palazzo Tornabuoni in Florence, Italy. The Palazzo is a private residential building created through the restoration of the magnificent 15th-century palace in the heart of Florence. Some of the splendid artworks date from the 16th century when the Palazzo became the property of Alessandro Ottaviano de' Medici, who then became Pope Leo XI. At the end of the 16th century, the Palazzo was acquired by the Corsi family. During the next century and a half, they continued to improve and adorn the palace. When it came on the market, we jumped at the opportunity. We have a close friend who lives in Florence and he and his wife checked it out. He had been to the Palazzo many times but he focused on our apartment. It was his opinion that we should go right ahead and set up the arrangements. Now the only problem is, whenever are we going to get there, with Covid-19? The Schengen Area/European Union is in a state of disrepair because of poor planning involving the vaccines. We were hoping to get there this spring."

Past items from **Niles Eldredge** and **David Sard** referred to their freshman-year New Hall suite-mate, the irresistible "TZ," **Tom de Zengotita** GS'73, GSAS'92. I'm happy to say that I tracked him



down. Tom is an author and contributing editor at *Harper's Magazine*. He holds a Ph.D. in anthropology from Columbia and teaches at the Dalton School and NYU. He sent me these reminiscences:

"That one year I spent at Columbia College with you guys was interesting for a lot of reasons, but at that point in my life academics was not one of them. All that changed when I went back to Columbia at the School of General Studies after 10 years 'on the road' (my model more Jack Kerouac '44 than '60s counterculture). I got very

how vigorously he warned me in later years to stay away from Hegel (called him 'dangerous!') but, once again, he continued to spend serious time with me even though I was obviously succumbing to the glamor of the dialectic (I hasten to add, that didn't last long, at least not at the 'absolute mind' level).

"Finally, linguistics — inspired originally by Noam Chomsky's devastating takedown of behaviorism. Thanks to Mead's intervention (and even though she loathed the man), I was able to converse with him on several occasions and had a real cor-

courses and ultimately become doctors. My low test scores made your grades look great. Truth be told, I did not want to be a doctor at all, but my mother, who told me I could be anything I wanted, decided that I wanted to be a doctor. Wrong. I wanted to be writer, journalist type, but I was advised that I could never 'make a living' doing that. And what Jewish mother brags that her son is a writer? None. So, pre-med it was. That lasted one year, then I chose economics. I told my mother about my change in major and the silence that followed — it was a long-distance call — made me think that she had collapsed and died on the spot. (She had not.)

"In the ensuing years, among other jobs, I worked in advertising in NYC, opened my own agency in Massachusetts, welded metal sculpture for my very talented ex-wife, taught high school and community college, manufactured mattresses and upholstered furniture, and operated a sign business. Obviously, I did not give my mother anything to brag about. However, 55 years later, I finished my first novel (*The Kenzoza Council*, self-published on Amazon) and have started my second novel and a series of essays (yes, I know, no one reads essays). I am doing it for fun, and there is no pressure. Except for the fact that I must write quickly, so I can remember why I had my character enter the room.

"I struggled through Columbia and wanted to quit many times. I must give my fantastic roommate **Howard Hirsch** BUS'68 all the credit for encouraging me to hang in there. He helped me get over the culture shock of living in Manhattan. I lived in a relatively small town in Massachusetts, where I had a successful high school career (hence my admission to Columbia). I had never traveled much, and this was so different. In addition, I was meeting people who were so much smarter than I that I was totally intimidated. I was afraid to even speak in class, and to my chagrin, learned that one of my Humanities teachers lowered my grade because he thought that I didn't contribute enough to the class discussion. I don't remember his name, but I very vividly remember storming out of his classroom after the little discussion we had about my arbitrarily lowered grade and slamming the door really hard. As

I watched in horror as it closed, I could only think, 'Oh shit, now the glass will break, and this will be the end of me!' (It didn't.)

"It is OK if you don't remember me; I was not a memorable student (as opposed to **Ben Stein**, who, although we had some of the same economics classes, surely does not remember me either). I moved out of New Hall after freshman year and lived in my fraternity house (SAM, for those still reading this) and then in a series of apartments. I went to class and then went back to my apartment. Big mistake. Sometimes I studied in the stacks, and often fell asleep in the silence. Looking back, I am saddened that my shyness prevented me from meeting more classmates (yes, even the doctors!) and making more friends.

"I struggled very hard in most of my classes, as most of you, except for a few football players, who shall remain nameless, were much faster and better learners than I was. But I made it, and to this day, in spite of it all, I look back at my four years as a fantastic learning experience. My teachers were, with one notable example (see earlier), incredibly knowledgeable. I could have sat all day in Music Humanities while my professor played the piano to illustrate his lectures. There are too many examples to write about, and this is far too long already. But as tough as it was, I would do it again. Columbia enriched my life to a degree that I am struggling to find the words to express. 'A hell of a lot' will have to do."

Mark L. Levine shares: "The audiobook edition of *The Trial of the Chicago 7: The Official Transcript*, the 50th anniversary edition of *The Tales of Hoffman*, which a group of friends and I edited — from 22,302 pages to 286 pages — in February 1970 and which Bantam Books had in bookstores 10 days after the trial ended, has been named a finalist in the Multi-Voiced Performance category by the Audio Publishers Association. The audiobook is voiced by 21 actors, including Jeff Daniels, Chris Jackson and J.K. Simmons; Aaron Sorkin reads the book's introduction and I do the preface. (Though Sorkin's film is great and wonderfully captures the spirit of the trial, he took lots of creative license in his screenplay. If you liked the movie, you should read the book

Chet Komarin '66 finished his first novel and has started on his second, along with a series of essays. He's doing it for fun — "there is no pressure."

focused on anthropology, like Niles, so Schermerhorn was the building for me. Also like Niles, I was close to Margaret Mead BC 1923; she always supported me when, as often happened, I bridled at various departmental requirements. Again like Niles, I had a good relationship with Marvin Harris '49, GSAS'53 even though, while in conversation with him, I was developing a view of what cultural and social anthropology ought to be doing that was opposed to his 'materialist' adaptational view of it all. But (huge but!), while he tried to convert me to his views he remained respectful of my commitment to anthropology as a humanist enterprise and continued to engage with me long after it became evident that I would never be 'his' student. As an educator myself in later years I came to appreciate even more than I did then what a fine example of academic integrity he provided.

"The other Columbia professor I recall most vividly, for similar reasons, was the 'teacher of philosophy,' Ernest Nagel GSAS 1931. That's how he listed himself, as I recall, in *Who's Who* while many lesser lights were calling themselves 'philosophers.' A glimpse right there of his integrity. As I recall (vaguely) from one of our conversations, he thought you needed to be a Hume or a Kant before you got to call yourself a 'philosopher.' I also remember

correspondence with him for a while. A young linguist at Columbia named Lars (I forget his last name) and a fellow graduate student, Scott Atran '72, GSAS'84, coached me through the most abstract procedures essential to Transformational Grammar, for which I had little aptitude. But if you were seriously intent on understanding 'human nature' in the 1970s you had to understand Chomsky — and they were very patient with me."

Space limitations force me to omit TZ's recollections of the campus upheavals of 1968; I hope to include them in a future column.

1966

Columbia College Today
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Chet Komarin reached out: "After 55 years, it is time for me to break my silence. But first, a special note to all of you who became doctors. You owe me one, and more likely, many more than one. You probably don't remember me, but I was the one in Professor Lawrence Krisher's chemistry class who made it possible for you guys to get into medical school. Yes, me. I am the one who made it possible for you to get only a few answers right and still do well on his curved scale. You could go on and take the rest of the pre-med

(or listen to the audiobook) to see or hear what actually happened and was actually said.) It contains, in the participants' own words, all of the outrageous — and sometimes hysterical — dialogue, repartee and courtroom confrontations from the court transcript. The book's website is chicago7trial.com."

Phil Warner checks in: "I entered with the Class of 1967. I spent nearly all my time working in Ron Breslow's lab and associating with grad students and postdocs. I had a single room and went home every weekend, mostly to see my girlfriend, whom I married in my senior year (lasted 26 years). After grad school and post doc, I was a chemistry professor for 41 years. I've been married (and divorced) three times, and raised nine children, four of my own. I have three grandchildren. Right now I live in Rochester, N.Y. (due to my third wife), with barely a friend, but two boys still in high school. Unfortunately, nearly all the people I knew at Columbia are either deceased or long out of touch."

Jeff May shares: "My wife, Connie, and I are still working at May Indoor Air Investigations. She retired from 30 years of administrative work and teaching writing at the Cambridge School of Weston and joined me as office manager of our business and a co-author of five books. The second edition of our first book, *My House Is Killing Me!: A Complete Guide to a Healthier Indoor Environment*, was recently published. We have two children, Ben SEAS'00 (who works at Columbia and lives in the Heights

with his wife, Ola) and Jessica (who works at Social Security in Worcester). Jessie lives nearby so we get to see her, her husband, Cristian, and our two wonderful grandchildren regularly. We both have had our Covid-19 shots and hope to resume weekly rock and roll dancing at the nearby Princeton Station (if any of the bands still exist)."

Send your news and updates to cct@columbia.edu or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note, and we will share them in a future issue. Enjoy the summer!

1967

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As promised, here are the notes from the three classmates whose news did not make it into the Winter 2020–21 issue.

Jeremy Siegel wrote: "This is the first time I've written to *CCT*! My life has been most fulfilling, for which I'm very grateful. After Columbia, I spent four years getting a Ph.D. in economics at MIT, did one year post-doc at Harvard and then four years (for my first teaching position) at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. I befriended Milton Friedman during his last four years at Chicago, and we remained friends until he passed away in 2006. I left for Penn's Wharton School in 1976, where I remain. I knew since high school that I wanted to be a teacher, and it was a blessing to be able to fulfill my dream. I have taught more than 10,000 students in my 44 years at Chicago and Wharton, having had my last formal class in December, just before Covid-19 struck.

"Although I was a monetary economist, my lifelong interest in the stock market drew me to finance, and in 1994 I published *Stocks for the Long Run*, which unexpectedly became a bestseller. Those of you in financial markets have most certainly seen me on CNBC, Bloomberg and other TV networks, as I am one of the few academics foolish enough to stick my neck out and make forecasts!

"I met my wife in Philly and have two married sons, Andrew and Jeffrey, and one granddaughter,

Blake. Fortunately, the seven of us have formed a 'pod' and have spent a lot of time together during the pandemic. One son and his wife live in Boston and have flown to Philly (wearing N95 masks) to join us several times. Having had several health challenges in the last decade, I reasoned life was too short to go into a cocoon and miss out on the wonderful experiences we have as a family. My motto: 'Be cautious, Be safe, but Live Life!'"

Bennett Flax: "After our graduation, I put in a year of graduate study in mathematics, and then, hoping thereby to avoid being drafted for military service, began working for the Federal Aviation Administration. I've been with the FAA for 52 and a half years, the first 35-plus as a civil servant, and the past 17 as an employee of a company that provides engineering and technical services, largely to government agencies. Most of that half-century has been spent in southern New Jersey, where the FAA does much of its technical development work.

"After six years of work on the partial automation of air traffic control, I was given a year of studies in transportation engineering at UC Berkeley. That was followed by eight years of project management work at FAA headquarters in Washington, D.C., and five years of engineering public relations at the FAA's office in Brussels. I then returned to southern New Jersey, and have spent the last 32 years deriving mathematical models for estimating the risk of mid-air collision, usually for airplanes flying in remote or oceanic airspace, where surveillance and communication services generally lag far behind those that are available in the continental airspace over developed countries.

"An air traffic controller's main job is to keep airplanes separated from each other. He or she has a handbook that lays out the acceptable methods of separation, and the minimum distances (or minimum times, in some cases) that can be applied in a variety of situations. The models that I, and several others, have developed through the years allow us to recommend minimum distances (or minimum times) to the air traffic control specialists who periodically revise the handbook published by the International Civil Aviation Organization, one of the

specialized agencies of the United Nations. I've written lots of working papers for the ICAO panel that maintains the controllers' handbook; a good deal of my work is reflected in that handbook.

"In June 1968 I married Jeannette Laur BC'67; we're still happy to be married to each other. Jeannette taught French to high school students, and English as a second language to adults at our local community college, but I think she most enjoyed her work as a bilingual secretary at the French scientific mission (a branch of the French Embassy) during the first five years of our life in the Washington, D.C., area. For a long time we couldn't decide whether we should try to have children, but eventually we stopped procrastinating. Our daughter, Lena, an alumna of McGill University in Montreal, and our son, Mitchell '09, are both married to really fine spouses; so far they have produced three beautiful grandchildren. The arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic has kept Jeannette and me from spending much time with our family, but we hope for better days in the near future.

"The pandemic has also caused me to work from home, and since I thereby save an hour per day in commuting time, I've been able to jog (and occasionally run) on a fairly consistent basis. I no longer have the speed that I had when I was running cross country and track at the College, but I keep hoping that I'll figure out a way to get it back. Until the pandemic closed the local gymnastics school where I sometimes taught classes for young boys, I would get in some elementary exercise, once or twice per week, in one or two of the six standard men's events.

"The rest of my free time goes to keeping up with the news, reading (mostly history and science written for non-specialists) and listening to classical music. Now and then I do some cooking. I've been moderately active in my synagogue and in other Jewish community organizations in Atlantic County, N.J.

"Jeannette and I stay in touch with **Albert Cheh** and his wife, May, who live in Bethesda, Md. Albert recently retired from teaching environmental science, I believe, at American University in Washington, D.C. In the last dozen years or

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so I had a couple of chances to get together with **George Leonard**, who shared a room with me in John Jay Hall during the first semester of our freshman year. When we last met, George was living in and still teaching in the San Francisco area.

Anthony Moscato: "I earned a J.D. from The George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C., in 1970. I have lived in Northern Virginia since graduating from law school and have been married to Deborah for 47 years. My two children and four grandchildren live nearby and, happily, we see them often. The bulk of my professional career (33 years) was spent at the United States Department of Justice, where I was privileged to serve as the department's deputy assistant attorney general for administration; the department's first inspector general (acting); the director of the Executive Office for United States Attorneys; the director of the Executive Office for Immigration Review; and, finally, as a member of the Board of Immigration Appeals. Since retiring from Justice, I have been a volunteer attorney for Capital Hospice/Caring, working with more than 250 terminally ill patients and their families to provide needed legal documents and assistance with the probate process."

Be well, all of you, and do write via email, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

1968

Arthur Spector
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Greetings from Miami Beach! Warm weather is here and Columbia blue skies, too. I hope you are well. I also still hope that we can have an Art Basel event this year.

I have heard from several classmates. By Zoom, **Mas Taketomo**, **Rich Rosenblum** and others performing songs, brightening my world and others' too. Also: **Arthur Kaufman**, **Robert Brandt**, **Paul de Bary**, **Seth Weinstein**, **Nigel Paneth** and **Buzz Zucker**. All seem to be doing fine.

I had a long chat with **Randy Vaughan** BUS'70 and learned much about his time in Beirut and Istanbul; his drive in a Porsche and

totaling it and surviving his youth, which I believe included a year abroad plus at one point running out of money in Istanbul. All thrilling, but sounds dangerous! He had some great memories of **Tony Kao** and **George Ting**. I think Tony is now in Massachusetts, and I need to track down George, who I have a feeling is in Tokyo.

I spoke to **Jim Shorter**, who sounded great; he was locked down in New York. **David Shapiro** and I spoke at length and chatted about the art world. He is always vibrant and expansive. We talked about world-renowned pianist Glenn Gould, Donald Judd GS'53 — whom I believe he knew — Bach and Emanuel Ax '70. David's daughter-in-law works at Christie's, where I would like a job.

I recently met Peter Hiebert '71; he has a place here in Miami Beach and we had a great dinner. He is working on his 50th reunion and I was happy to share some thoughts. His idea, too, is that we have reunions more frequently, like, annually.

Heard from **Al McCoy**. I thought he might follow the Michigan-Wisconsin basketball game, with Michigan led by Mike Smith '20, a grad student point guard for the Wolverines.

Al adds, "Before Covid-19 I used to take in a number of basketball games here at UW-Madison, but have not made the transition to TV. I do follow the UW team closely in the extensive local press coverage, and found the first game between the two painful. There may be a Lion on the Michigan team, but after 32 years teaching at Wisconsin I know where my loyalties lie.

"Meanwhile, I am still teaching and writing here, a short essay came out recently and I have a book coming out next fall. When the ice started forming on the lake at the end of November, I stopped rowing for the season but the sudden snowfall launched me into cross-country skiing, which is a similar form of exercise. And both put you out in nature. Nothing like skiing across open fields in a carpet of silvery moonlight, which I will do tonight. It's magical."

Rowers like Al, **Tom Sanford**, **Arthur Kaufman** and **Ira McCown** sound like they are all still able to row. I try to swim every day, to jog three or four times a week and to get to the gym.

Tom, Arthur and I had a Zoom session and have been back and forth. Arthur teaches at the Law School and seems to enjoy it. I hope he and his wife, Susan, visit Miami in a few months; if I recall correctly, Tom would like to come here to row. I am hoping to go to Key West and to see **Hollis Petersen** now that Florida is open.

Bob Chapla wrote in late last year: "Not much happening in our section of Vermont. Gardens have been put to bed and the barn/gallery is in winter shutdown for the most part. Our first substantial snow is falling as I write. Though our farm is in the outback of Newbury, Vt., we are in close proximity to a number of other artists, actors and writers, with whom we are in regular contact both remotely and socially distanced. Covid has not run rampant here, but an uptick is occurring.

"I am part of several art shows in local galleries. As for my newest work, not shown as yet at this writing, it hearkens back to Nietzsche's *Birth of a Tragedy*, combining Dionysiac (underlying abstract) and Apollonian (overlying grid) elements. Whether their combination succeeds as an integrated art piece is as yet undetermined. At this point I am just doing them."

I hope to visit Bob this summer if I am in Saratoga and to see his work. I have a modest print collection, thanks to advice from **David Shapiro**. I wish I could draw or paint ... in another life.

Phil Mandelker LAW'71, now deceased, was becoming a devoted artist, with great prints, in Israel. I took Arthur Danto GSAS'53's aesthetics class. It was my favorite class. As you might know, Danto was a Nietzsche expert. I wish we had video of his classes. At the next reunion we should have a discussion of art and life.

Too late for my last column but never too late, **Chris Friedrichs** wrote: "My year was probably very much like yours: dominated by the global pandemic. I traveled to India for two weeks in February 2020 to visit friends in Delhi and Mumbai and fortunately returned before concerns about the pandemic really took off. From then on, every trip I had planned was canceled, so I have been home teaching classes for seniors by Zoom and staying close to friends by email phone and Zoom.

"I am glad I retired from my long career at the University of British Columbia and am thus spared the hassles of distance teaching. My three kids and three grandkids live in New York and their lives are predictably stressful but are healthy and well and so am I."

I hope all of the Class of '68 are well and have been vaccinated. I got my two doses in February. It has been quite a year to reflect on the good things that we have had, and I hope more cheer is coming. Send me a note when you are able.

1969

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Hart Perry SOA'71 writes that after teaching "a special project in holography at Bard College, during the pandemic I isolated on our Upstate New York estate and built a laboratory to make large-scale holographic movies. Every boy needs a hobby."

Richard Rosenstein, semi-retired and Covid-19-vaccinated in Southern California, is "dealing well with life in lockdown. I have mixed memories of my Columbia years, as I held down an almost full-time job. I never felt part of the mainstream of College life but am eternally grateful for the education I received." His "fondest memories are of being part of the Marching Band hijinks ... and sitting by *Alma Mater* at night contemplating the future."

Andrew Bronin writes, "Although I still have my dermatology practice in the Greenwich, Conn., area, we now live full time in what used to be our weekend house in Essex on the Connecticut River: ospreys fishing in the summer and Bald Eagles overhead in the winter." During the "hour drive each way, I reprise my undergraduate education," having "recently finished listening to the Audible version of the *Odyssey*, and am now deep into the *Iliad*. How interesting to listen to it being read aloud, the way that it was supposed to be experienced."

Andrew wonders "why we had to put up with Lattimore when the Fitzgerald translation is much better."

Vaud E. Massarsky shares that his essay on the causes of the Spring 1968 campus events recently "appeared in Paul Cronin's book, *A*

Time to Stir: Columbia '68, now an award-winning documentary." *The Adventures of Fletcher MacDonald* — Vaud's Cape Breton, Canada, detective series — had a second printing, with a screen treatment written by **Steve Mark**. His "2016 essay, *Donald Trump is the enemy of liberty, his words are proof*, prompted a large number of shares and commentary and pretty much predicted Trump's plan and modus operandi that led inexorably to the insurrection of January 6, 2021."

In February, Vaud said, concerned "that civil ignorance is the root cause of Americans resorting to violence to effect political change — as evidenced by the Capitol insurrection and the 2020 storming of the Michigan and Oregon state houses — [I] founded the American Civics League. The organization promotes the revitalization of civics education, especially remedial adult education through public service announcements, focused on the mechanics of the American constitutional order: a system to resolve political differences without violence."

Henry Jackson writes: "Covid has kept me under house arrest. My wife and I have had both shots of the Moderna vaccine. Of course, the virus could outsmart the vaccine, so house arrest might have to continue." He adds, "Perhaps classmates can find some hope in the refrain from the Anglo-Saxon poem 'Deor,' which is essentially a catalog of catastrophes: 'Thes overroede, thises swa maeg.' Translation: 'That passed; so may this.'"

David Rosedahl writes: "My best memories of the pandemic will be rehearsing with my string quartet in an airplane hangar, socially distanced and wearing masks. One of our violists and her husband are commercial pilots; they own a small plane and hangar it in South St. Paul. It's ideal for chamber music. Our Hangar Quartet performed outdoors at assisted-living facilities, and even played for brunch and cocktails at local country clubs."

Lee T. Percy GSAS'71 writes: "The Zoombie Apocalypse has kept me busy with a variety of undead meetings and events, but I continue to enjoy retirement in Pennsylvania." Lee's book, *Aeneas*, will appear in July, and he is working on a memoir, *Practicing Classics*.

Hilton Obenzinger, now fully retired as Stanford's associate

director of the Chinese Railroad Workers in North America Project, plans "to spend a lot of time visiting my nine grandchildren." His publisher says of his book, *Witness, California 2017–2020: Selections*, which was scheduled for spring release, "[it] chronicles four years of troubles, shootings, wildfires, racial reckoning, planetary murder, plague, monumental lies, crazy delusions, #MeToo, an uprising for justice, and more. But a failed far-right insurrection had to be the capstone of these terrible times, and the nation is not done yet. What was once unfamiliar and strange ('flatten the curve') has become common, even banal, demanding a poem. Language has to keep up, and Hilton Obenzinger presents a powerful testimony filled with rage, fear, laughter, and joy."

I asked the class, "What music did you carry away from Columbia?"

Gregg Geller remarks: "Even after a nearly 50-year career in the music business, every time I hear 'A Lover's Concerto' by The Toys I'm transported back to the Lions Den, freshman year, where it seemed to play on an endless loop. Memories of my favorite bands on campus — The Walkers, Dada, and The Montgomery Brothers — are indelible, though I can't help but wish they'd been recorded back in the day."

Henry Jackson "carried an appreciation of the works of van Eyck and Mozart from Columbia. These days, I'm particularly glad for that."

David Rosedahl writes: "My favorite music memories of Columbia were of **Andy Bronin** bringing Simon & Garfunkel's recently released *Sounds of Silence* to Carman Hall in late fall '65, matched in fall '68 when apartment-mate **Richard Wojculewski** (now Wyatt) brought home Judy Collins's *Both Sides Now*."

Christopher Jensen writes: "In winter of 1965–66, Terry Carver '68 took several Idahoan CC'69 freshmen to the old Metropolitan Opera on West 39th Street to see Gounod's *Faust* with Mirella Freni as Marguerite and Sherril Milnes as Valentin. (Terry, who grew up in Boise with a love of the opera, is now a renowned scholar of Marx and Engels on the faculty of the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom and occasionally writes historical program notes for the Covent Garden Opera.) We stood for more than three hours at the back of the orchestra. I was

entranced by the lush music and the sensuous Walpurgisnacht ballet. I had never heard, much less seen, a full opera growing up in Idaho, but I was hooked. I have been a regular subscriber to the Met for many years and have seen dozens of better operas but none so memorable as when I was 18 and discovering this music."

Renee Chinquapin remembers: "When the Grateful Dead played during the strike I pooh-poohed it: no melody, no class, no message. Little did I know. Two years later, touring Europe with a pal in his VW Bug, a battery-powered record player forever imprinted *Workingman's Dead* upon my dazed mind. Later, at a bedraggled commune in Upstate New York, [some residents] had the Dead's *American Beauty* and even drove me to a Dead concert in Utica. As if this wasn't retribution enough for my folkie snobbery, not long thereafter a lover slipped an Owsley tab of LSD under my tongue and I ended up zonkered-out at a Cow Palace Dead orgy. How I ever made it out of there is one major miracle. I still play some of the Dead's songs ('Truckin'); they kind of got under my skin."

Rick Winston writes: "I was exposed to a lot of classical and folk music growing up but was lured away in the mid-'60s by the siren call of rock and electric blues. The amazing richness of that period coincided with my years at Columbia; hearing *December's Children*; *Highway 61 Revisited* and *Rubber Soul* will immediately return me to my freshman year at Carman Hall. It was a challenge to keep up with assignments when Muddy Waters or The Blues Project were just a subway ride away at the Cafe Au Go Go, or when the Paul Butterfield Blues Band was at Town Hall. One memorable night some of us walked to the Apollo Theater, where the bill featured Lightnin' Hopkins, John Lee Hooker and Betty Carter. I listened as my some classmates (**Woody Lewis**, **Alan Senauke** and **Bob Norman**, among others) formed rock bands. Not that other music was forgotten — I remember Miles Davis at the Village Vanguard, Rudolf Serkin at Carnegie Hall and Ravi Shankar in residence at City College. The music that was so exciting those years still has a secure place on my iPhone: 50-plus years later, it's my go-to playlist while mowing the lawn."

Nathaniel Wander recalls a '66 performance by the still-magnetic blues guitarist Mississippi John Hurt in the Postscript Coffeehouse beneath St. Paul's Chapel — Hurt would die that November. Nathaniel also remembers the May '68 Grateful Dead performance on the Ferris Booth terrace: bit.ly/3gxmpDA. He was awed by David Bromberg's inordinately extended Butler lawn version of William Harris's 1927 version of 'Bullfrog Blues' (bit.ly/3n5uVv1). Bromberg dropped out of the College in '65. When the Kingsmen morphed into Sha Na Na in '69, Nathaniel was then overseas, but remembers them playing later on Butler lawn."

Next question is about "The Things They Carried." Did you "carry away" friendships with mates who didn't graduate with the class? Encourage them to let us know how their lives turned out. (We are cautioned against reporting on third parties without their accord.)

1970

Leo Kailas
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I hope by now all of you have had your Covid-19 vaccinations and have weathered this horrible pandemic.

I always try to begin with classmates who have not contributed in a while or at all, so I begin these Class Notes with **David Finck**, a doctor and fellow Berkshires resident: "I've been in the Berkshires since 1979 and retired in 2018 from practicing non-invasive cardiology at Berkshire Medical Center. My wife, Lea, and I live in West Stockbridge. Along with the rest of us, I missed Tanglewood, Barrington Stage Company and our other cultural activities last summer. We keep busy hiking year-round, and before the pandemic had been able to combine hiking with U.S. and international travel; we will get back to this."

"I've had fun with the photos I took for *Spectator* in 1968 having resurfaced in the past few years. They were used in Paul J. Cronin's documentary (and book), *A Time to Stir: Columbia '68*; on the cover of Mark Rudd '69's *Underground: My Life with SDS and the Weathermen*; and on John's Oliver's *Last Week*



Tonight, which featured one of Bill Barr '71 counter-demonstrating outside Hamilton Hall. (Cronin, a filmmaker, facilitated scanning my old negatives and transferring them to the University Archives; he identified the photo including Bill, then used it in an article he wrote in *Politico*, where the *Last Week Tonight* staff found it.)"

Fred P. White LAW'73, a former law school dean I have connected with during reunions, caught me up on his news and also his very good deeds! He writes: "I am comfortably retired and living in Lakewood Ranch, Fla., adjacent to Sarasota on the south. I am in my third year on the board of the Cleveland State University, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, where I taught for 26 years. In addition, I was inducted into the Cleveland-Marshall Hall of Fame in late 2018. My book, *Ohio Landlord Tenant Law*, has been published annually since 1995.

"On a more important note: Zachary Husser '73 passed away in October 2018. Zach was a loyal Columbia alumnus and remained active in the Greater Harlem community long after his graduation. In order to honor Zach's memories as well as his community spirit, some classmates, led by **Larry Frazier**, and including me, **Mark Durham**, **Marvin Kelly**, **Karla Spurlock-Evans**, BC'71, **James Boggan** '71, **Alford Dempsey**, **Leon Denmark** '71 and **John Herbert** '69, partnered with Columbia's Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies to establish the Zachary Cornell Husser Prize for Community Engagement and Empowerment Fund. In a little more than a year, we raised more than \$50,000, and the prize fund has been endowed. We intend to raise more. Gifts to the fund may be made online at givenow.columbia.edu (search for the fund name on the page), or checks may be mailed to Zachary Cornell Husser Prize for Community Engagement and Empowerment Fund, c/o Office of Alumni and Development, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4525, New York, NY 10025."

Not to be missed, another first-time/catch-up note from **David Bogorad**: "You have not heard from me before, but as a classmate recently suggested, it's time to check in after a half-century! I was one of those 'pre-med grubs' of our era,

and went on to NYU Med, from which I graduated with honors in '74. I continued there, did two years of internal medicine residency at Bellevue, then stayed on at NYU doing the three-year residency in ophthalmology. During that time, I met my wife of now 46 years, Alissa, who was completing her training in occupational therapy at Bellevue. Shortly before I completed my training at NYU our first daughter, Arielle, was born at NYU. In 1979, after the completion of my residency, Alissa, I and our infant daughter emigrated to southeast Michigan, where I joined the full-time senior staff in the Department of Ophthalmology at the Henry Ford Health System. Ford is a teaching institution, and as I always wanted to teach as well as practice, it was a great fit for me. Early on, our second daughter, Alexandra, was born at Ford. I stayed at Ford for 22 years, where I participated in the training of close to 100 residents in the medical and surgical practice of ophthalmology. While there, I developed the first laser vision correction program at Ford, doing our first LASIK surgery in 1997. For the last several years I was the division head of ophthalmology at the Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital.

"In 2001 I was given the opportunity to become a professor and vice-chair of ophthalmology at the Medical College of Georgia - Augusta University. By then, our daughters had graduated from the University of Michigan and gone on to their own careers, so it was the ideal time for Alissa and me to move on to our next phase. MCG lacked a refractive surgery program, so I recapitulated my efforts at Ford and established the LASIK practice at MCG, which I continue to direct. In addition to a modicum of research, I got involved in the governance of the medical school, ultimately becoming chair of what was then known as the Georgia Regents Medical Associates Foundation, and a member of the Board of the Georgia Regents Health System. I have long been active in the Georgia Society of Ophthalmology, as president 2011-12 and now as chair of the Georgia Society of Ophthalmology Foundation.

"So now, after 41 years of academic practice in ophthalmology, wherein I contributed to the train-

ing of two generations of ophthalmologists, I continue to perform and teach cataract and refractive surgery to the eye surgeons of tomorrow. Meanwhile, Alissa recently retired from her inpatient hospital OT practice of many years. Arielle, after earning an M.B.A. from Vanderbilt, joined the Cerner Corp. in Kansas City, Mo., where she is senior director of Cerner's Worldwide Benefits, Wellness & Fitness division. She and her husband, Luke, who also works for Cerner, have a 14-month-old daughter, Stella. Alexandra has practiced in the field of speech and language pathology in the Bay Area for many years. She and her husband, Michael, an independent video producer, live in Novato, Calif.

"But let's flash back to our Columbia College days. What absolutely nobody will remember is that I was the editor-in-chief of our yearbook, *COLUMBIAN SEVENTY*, the 122nd edition of the book. I had been interested in photography since I was a child, and had a darkroom in the basement when I was growing up. I was heavily involved in my high school yearbooks, and did sports photography for the long-defunct *Washington Daily News*. At Columbia I worked on the '68 and '69 books, where we chronicled in pictures the events that rocked the campus at that time. But I had editorial control over the 1970 book. Frank Safran '58, whom many may recall was the director of student activities, stayed out of the yearbook office in Ferris Booth, which was next door to the *Spectator* office. He was wise. That way, he could absolve himself of any responsibility for what we produced! Our book had a completely different aesthetic to anything previously done. It had far more color and a magazine style that stood out at that time. I was very fortunate to have attracted a group of talented writers and photographers from Columbia and Barnard who wanted to participate in its creation. The late, brilliant James Casimir 'Wiz' Wisniewski wrote several major pieces in the book, to great effect. My chief collaborator, Jon Kandel '72, and I were fixated on creating the slickest thing that had happened in college yearbooks up to then. After all, we were in New York City, the publishing and media capital of the world! We had to compete! And

we did indeed succeed in creating a splash. Even Bennett Cerf CC 1920 commented favorably in a letter he sent us after we sent him a copy!

"Please see this online article from the June 21, 1970, issue of *The New York Times*: 'Columbia Yearbook Drops Usual Themes to Discuss Sex, Drugs and Protests': nyti.ms/3gmj1vr. Now, 50 years later, I would urge all classmates to hunt through the archives of their archives to locate their copy of *COLUMBIAN SEVENTY*. I think that the patina of time will give it even more impact than it had at the time of its creation."

Finally, my friend **David Lehman**, ever modest about his accomplishments, reports on **Robert Launay**, "who is doing beautiful things translating French poetry of the Renaissance and later; see it online here: bit.ly/3sBZvNX and here: bit.ly/32zHu8c."

Share your news with me via email, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

1971

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Andrew Dunn backs up my memory that Carman Hall did not label its top floor 13. He also brought up several classmates whom I remember, as they were ZBT members (I was the spring 1968 pledge class), including **Dr. Larry Parsont**, **Jon Halperin**, **Ken Zeitler** and **Lee Zell**. Andrew mentioned he keeps in touch with his suitmates from Carman Hall, **Ed Wallace** and **John Sutherland**. He remains friendly with **Larry Gordon** (see later in the column). Andrew's crew members had a 45th reunion and paddled the 4 shell, which they donated to the program.

I also received a dissenting vote about Carman Hall and the 13th floor, making the vote count total 1 to 1. Please help us get a definitive answer to this monumentally urgent question. Was the 13th floor of Carman Hall labeled as such in the elevator as of our freshman year or thereafter? If you have an opinion or proof of which remembrance is correct (or maybe in some existential way, both are), please send your evidence/opinion to the email address

at the top of the column. I thought that freshman year, I lived in room 1401 of Carman Hall. Hey, Dr. **Ray Stricker** PS'78 or **Richie Berenholtz** SEAS'71, you can put your two cents in on this. You lived on that floor, too.

Arvin Levine, with sorrow, sends us notice that **Joseph "Joey" Rotenberg** passed away in February of this year. Joey lived off campus, but during the four years of college Arvin's and Joey's paths crossed enough so that they were friendly. Thereafter, they were not close, but Arvin notes they lived in the same neighborhood of Teaneck, N.J., for 30 years, only a few miles apart.

Arvin says he regrets opportunities missed over time to maintain his Columbia connections. He now lives in Jerusalem, where a quick visit is not so simple for his friends from the States. He offers that if any classmates wish to restart communications/relationships via telecommunications or in person, he "could be easily persuaded to invest" his time. He offers his phone number (+972-52-405-4129) and his email address (arvinlevine@gmail.com).

Arvin retired from a career in high tech, which brought him in contact with interesting and bright people, he says. He performs with four musical groups, relying on his collegiate training as part of the "cleverest band in the world." Arvin reads classical literature and Talmudic texts; however, his greatest pleasure is doing his best to spoil his grandchildren.

I would second Arvin's idea that we have the common but unique experience of attending Columbia during years where magnitudes of stress and the test of freedom of speech were at ultimately high levels. This is a bond that few others students in America can claim. I believe by communicating and sharing our lives, we continue this special experience. I need your help to do this. Many classmates are interested in your life. Inform us.

Reinaldo "Rey" Bonachea SEAS'72, SEAS'74 read **Ron Rosenberg's** note in the Winter 2020–21 column, as did **Paul Armstrong**, and both would love to communicate with their teammates from our freshman-year basketball team. Yes, back in prehistoric times the NCAA let colleges have teams just for freshmen, as well as JV and varsity teams.

Rey notes that he is listed in the Columbia alumni directory (college.

columbia.edu/alumni/connect/alumni-directory) and would be glad to hear from teammates. His email is rnb13@columbia.edu. After graduating from the 3-2 program he went to work for Bell Laboratories as a circuit designer. Subsequently, he taught himself software design and for more than five years designed software. Rey was promoted twice while managing software system design. In 1994, for health reasons, he moved to Florida. He was the market management director for the Latin America region. During this time, AT&T split and Rey went with Lucent Technologies. Within a short time, he was asked to create a workshop for newly acquired and recently promoted managers. In this program, he traveled the world teaching three-day workshops.

Rey retired at 52, and since then, has been doing volunteer work including Kairos Inside, retreats within medium- and maximum-security prisons in Florida and Latin America. He is an active member of a social justice ministry, People Acting in Community Together, aka Miami PACT, which supports change on issues such as affordable housing, gun violence, youth arrests for minor offenses and so on. He has worked to house youths who were separated or without parents when they entered our country. He volunteers in his parish and is involved in college-level classes on biblical topics. Rey also enjoys bike riding 25–30 miles several times per week with a group of friends. He finds time to be an Alumni Representative Committee member in two South Florida regions, for which he attends high school college fairs and interviews prospective student for the College and for Columbia Engineering. Even though the pandemic changed the mode of the interviews (now all video), Rey has interviewed 78 students this year, and another 30 are scheduled. More than half the applicants to Columbia will not be interviewed, and Rey asks other alumni to participate in this program to increase its reach (college.columbia.edu/alumni/volunteer/alumni-interviewing).

Rey also supplied a list of a few of his teammates from the freshman basketball team. They are listed in no particular order, but offered as a walk down memory lane: **Paul Armstrong**, **Ron Rosenberg**, **Leon**

Williams, **Larry Gordon**, **Elliot Wolfe**, **Richard Abba**, **Ed Monks** and **Terry Gibson**. I would add, if any of Rey's teammates want to contact him, his email is earlier in the column, and it would be my pleasure to facilitate communications as well.

My freshman soccer teammate **Ken Lehn** also sent a shoutout to the class.

It is now 50 years ago that we graduated from Columbia College and made our way into the world or graduate school, whichever was our preference. We are a group of brothers who made it through the most unique college experience. Let's stay in touch. The story is not fully written and I for one am curious how it turns out. Let us know.

1972

Paul Appelbaum
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As you read this column, I hope the Covid-19 pandemic is only a fading image in the rearview mirror. After closing down in-person classes and most of the dorms in spring 2020, the College brought about 1,000 students back to campus in the fall and 1,800 for spring 2021. The incremental return of the students made the neighborhood somewhat livelier and undoubtedly helped the local stores. Columbia conducted an aggressive testing regimen and, although some students tested positive for the SARS-COV-2 virus, it did not experience the kind of widespread infection that some other schools endured. We're all hoping for better times and — dare we say it — a return to normality in the fall.

Jeffrey Laurence, meanwhile, has been right in the middle of it. "For me, the past year has been an incredible odyssey. I was it for the hematology service at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell from mid-March through early April 2020, when NYC was at its pandemic height. My two daughters and their boyfriends moved into my Greenwich, Conn., house to telework, while I took over an apartment in the East Village. My lab published one of the first papers on the pathology of Covid — already cited more than 1,100 times — and I did the interview circuit about clotting problems from Covid, everywhere from CNN

and Vox to *All Things Considered* and Voice of America. But by the end of the year the kids moved back, my older daughter, Auden, went on to Harvard Business School (courtesy of her employer, McKinsey) and things are a lot calmer now in our hospital, given masks, vaccines and truncated traveling. Our Cornell group is competing for a \$1.5 billion NIH initiative — money to be given out at warp speed, just a couple of months post-announcement of this funding opportunity — to study Covid 'long haulers.' These are coronavirus-infected individuals who just don't get better, or progress from mild symptoms to everything from brain fog and depression to cardiac arrest."

Bruce Jacobs SEAS '73 has seen the pandemic from a different vantage point: the business world. As of this past spring his firm's entire staff had been working from home for more than a year. Thanks to today's technology, Bruce notes, "We are able to conduct business entirely electronically and with video calls with clients. We hope to be back in our office sometime this summer or fall, in time to celebrate the 35th anniversary of Jacobs Levy Equity Management. We have contributed to pandemic relief organizations to provide support during this challenging time. Many of our family gatherings have been outdoors, and any indoor gatherings during the winter were limited and carefully masked. Our social events have been on Zoom. It must have been difficult during the 1918 pandemic, before the advent of the virtual world, and we realize how blessed we are to be living today. I extend condolences to all who have lost loved ones to this tragic pandemic."

Not everyone, of course, was staying home, even as the pandemic dominated the news. **Larry Boorstein** was a Nonresponse Followup Enumerator with U.S. Census Bureau July–October 2020. "NRFUs enumerate housing units for which a 2020 Census response was not received, conducting interviews and determining housing unit status for nonresponding addresses in Fairfax, Va., and Philadelphia," he writes.

To conclude with a blast from the past, **Bob Ahrens** has a find to report: a flier that he discovered in a shoebox, which he guesses dates to 1969, author unknown, that parodied the demands being put



Reminiscing at a lightweight football reunion in Washington, D.C., in 2009 were (left to right) Steven "Noah" Sims '73, John R. Moore '73 (partially obscured; Moore died on May 5, 2017), Ricardo Assaf '73, Eric H. Holder Jr. '73, Garrett McK. Johnson '74, Donny Young '74 and Domingo Nunez '76.

forth by parts of the student body. The discovery brought back long-repressed memories of being handed the flier in front of Low Library. "As part of our overall program culminating with the destruction of evil," the manifesto writers declared, they were issuing 69 demands. Among the list (selected from the few that can be shared in a family publication): "R. Crumb be appointed full professor of Graphic Arts"; "Free all rats and pigeons in the Psychology Department"; "The Board of Trustees consult the *I Ching* before making decisions."

Ah, those were the days. "If nothing else," muses Bob, it shows that we Columbia students kept our sense of humor throughout those trying years.

Share your news with me via email, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

1973

Barry Etra
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So ... I wasn't thinking. I sent a plea for notes to the entire class, and was deluged. Apologies to some in advance; you will be in the issue subsequent.

Marc Jaffe LAW'76 has run the Children's Learning Centers of Fairfield County for more than seven years. He is collaborating with the

Columbia College of Physicians & Surgeons' Nurture Science Program on seminal work developing the emotional connection between parents and children, which has become a greater problem during Covid-19; he will co-author two academic papers as a result. Marc has also joined the board of The Effortless Mastery Institute, founded by jazz pianist Kenny Werner to address the issues of musician burnout, addiction and depression. His wife, May, is an award-winning producer of audiobooks; his son Aaron '21 was in Barcelona for a term and concluded his college career studying remotely. As Marc notes, "At least he didn't have to take 'The Mechanics of Reformable Solids.'"

Allen Schill is mainly a photographer, but has branched out; in the past year he made an oversized bowling alley pencil as an homage to his father and his uncle, who were creative and associated with Islip Bowl on Long Island. He points out that, in contrast to sculptor Claes Oldenburg and others, his work is more earnest and less ironic. Allen has also commemorated that past in a blog post, allenschill.com/thesecondstone/the-big-islip-bowl-bowling-alley-pencil. Also on his blog are articles on the "tripping stones" around Torino, a treatment of a poem by Don Marquis and a geopolitical theory that the Blue Meanies have taken over the world.

Read up, classmates!

Ravi Venkateswaran called and wrote from Seattle. He is semi-retired but still on the board of his boarding school, helping to develop initiatives in diversity and inclusion. Ravi is an advisor and a future director for an oil and gas startup in Nigeria as well.

Lyle Rexer GSAS'77 doesn't remember getting asked before (!), but responded well this time. He is a writer and a critic of art and photography (25 years on); his most recent book is *The Critical Eye: 15 Pictures to Understand Photography*. Lyle is on the faculty at the School of Visual Arts New York City (a subject that he notes he didn't study anywhere, much less at Columbia), writes a lot for the *Brooklyn Rail*, and has been in *Harper's* and *The New York Times*. He and his novelist wife, Rachel Klein, have three children (Lyle's daughter is a French professor at Vanderbilt) and soon will have four grandkids. They live near the Barclays Center.

Nick Lubar joined the Columbia Sailing Club for a fundraising event in February (virtually, of course); more than 60 attended. The rub is that no pledges can be collected until the Ivies once again permit sports. He is thrilled by the growth of the enterprise from the early '70s.

Mark Turco is still "gratefully retired," doing volunteer work with the, as he puts it, even-more-elderly, and doing a lot of reading.

Guadalupe San Miguel's book on Mexican-American Moderates will be out this year. He also had an article, *Nationalism: the Chicano Movement and Mexican-American Music in the US Southwest during the 1960's and 1970's*, published in *The Journal of South Texas*.

Steven "Noah" Sims is "hanging out in Fort Lauderdale, mostly working with the homeless. He's also involved in a project being developed by the Washington Interfaith Network and Pepco that will produce jobs, working capital, and contracts with minority businesses in Washington, D.C. As well, he has been online with Eric H. Holder Jr. LAW'76, James Whitlow, Louis Keyes and other '73-ers, working on a Black/Latino reunion for this summer in D.C., postponed from 2020. (See the nearby photo of a 2009 reunion.)

Bill Pollack chimed in from NYC, where he has been cooped up,

working remotely. Luckily, he says, "Online bridge is alive and well!"

Most ended their missives with "Hope everyone's well and going strong."

Ain't it da troof?

1974

Fred Bremer
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Friends, I'm sorry to say there is no news to share this issue. Write me via email, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note, and I'll share your news in a future issue. Hope you have a happy and safe summer!

1975

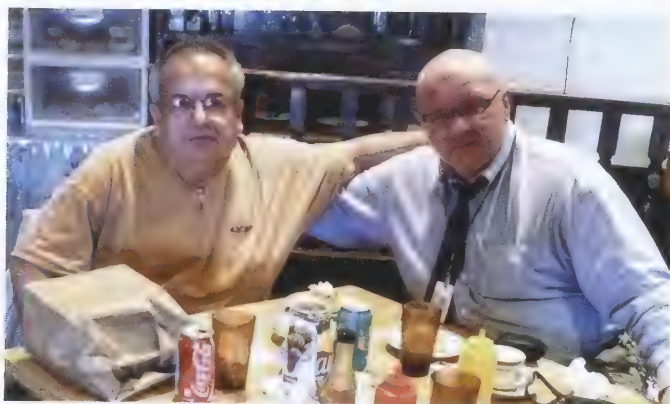
Randy Nichols
rcn2day@gmail.com

Thank you to all who wrote! Here is the latest:

Speaking on the Anheuser-Busch decision not to do an anthemic Budweiser ad during the Super Bowl, Paul Argenti, a Dartmouth professor of corporate communication, says, "We have a pandemic that is casting a pall over just about everything. It's hard to feel the exuberance and excitement people normally would."

The decision not to do an ad — which during nearly four decades has made American icons of frogs chirping "Bud-wei-ser," guys screaming "Whassup!" and of course, the Budweiser Clydesdales — showcases the caution with which some advertisers approached the first Covid-19-era Super Bowl.

Guy Golembiewski and his wife, Andrea, are physicians and reside in Boyne Falls, Mich. Andrea is the director of a 15-bed acute rehabilitation unit at McLaren Northern Michigan Hospital in Petoskey and Guy is the medical director of Harbor Hall, a 52-bed alcohol and drug treatment facility. Aside from the rewards of treating patients, what really keeps them going, they say, is their children, daughter, Ani (8), and son, Guy (6). "That's right; we started quite late," Guy says (Andrea is 16 years younger than Guy). Guy says that his children are the best thing that's ever happened to him,



Fernando Castro '75 (left) and Hon. Albert J. Mrozik Jr. '75, both La Salle Academy graduates, got together for lunch on March 11, 2019, at McWhorter Barbecue in Newark, N.J.

and he can attest to the adage that "children keep you young."

Writing from the "part of the submerged iceberg that enjoys your column but is silent," **Jeff Schnader** shared the news that he has been a professor of medicine for 35-plus years, but recently retired to work on his second career. He has written about 50 published articles and has been a journal editor in medicine, but gave that up and is now writing novels. He has finished his first novel, *The Serpent Papers*, which is about the demonstrations at Columbia in 1972, the Vietnam War era and the counterculture of the 1970s. It was edited by Richard Marek, who also edited Hemingway, James Baldwin and most of Robert Ludlum. The first chapters of his book, "*The Serpent Papers: Headed to Babylon*," and subsequent chapters, "*The Serpent Papers: Echoes of Sunshine*," were published in the October and November issues of *The Write Launch*, an online magazine. His short story, *The Champion*, won first prize in the League of Utah Writers Annual Quill Awards last fall.

Jeff is looking for an agent and publisher. He says, "It is hard to find an agent merely to read my query letters, let alone read my manuscript. I ask classmates for any help they might extend in my hunt." Jeff believes that, were the book to be published, our class, and other '70s classes, would thoroughly enjoy it, as it is largely about our college lives.

Jeff included this synopsis: "J-Bee, scion of a military family, is raised in a violent milieu during the 1960s, where he commits a retaliatory act of brutality. While his best friend volunteers to fight in Vietnam,

J-Bee is repulsed by his own violence and refuses to follow in his father's military footsteps. Instead, he matriculates at Columbia in 1971, an era of counterculture, in order to seek redemption. Although he feels loyalty to his friend fighting overseas, he strongly sympathizes with his girlfriend's rationale against the war. Thus torn between supporting the war or protesting against it, his paradoxical feelings are fueled when his best friend, on furlough from Vietnam, visits him at Columbia. With ratcheting tensions and bullhorns inciting students to protest, pro-war and anti-war factions collide in campus riots, and J-Bee makes the choice that defines his life."

Share your news with me via email, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note!

1976

Ken Howitt
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Another blast from the past with some Creedence Clearwater Revival playing to keep me up and writing, since once again my back is against another deadline of my own creation. I have had almost six months to start work on this column, and if **Terry Corrigan** still lived on 2 Livingston, I would be heading down for a marathon game of Risk instead of sitting at the keyboard.

One re-Zoom-ion event was a discussion of the Hitchcock film *Rear Window*, with **Gordon Kit** leading the informative discussion

as the founder of the Kit Noir Film Festival at the Lenfest Center for the Arts. **Jim Berquist** brought a date: "My wife made dinner plans and moved them when I reminded her about tonight. She is going to join in if that is OK!"

Who am I to say no?

In promoting this event, I mentioned those visits to the Olympia Theater at West 107th Street and then the stop at Cannon's afterward. That memory brought two responses. **Jeff Glassman** remarked: "One constant feature of the Olympia was that your feet stuck to the floor. One dare not ask what the sticky substance was." **John Healy's** thoughts: "*Rear Window* was a good one! But it reminded me that the life behind the buildings in the backyards and the alleys was sometimes more interesting than what was going on in the streets in front. Living at 2754 Broadway, out our back window we could see into buildings on 106th and 105th Streets. The stories! And your reference to the Olympia Theater and Cannon's brought back memories. I saw a lot of movies at Olympia. Not so much time at Cannon's but that was because I was frequenting other local watering holes."

The fun part of my job is putting together the shoutouts. John got one from **George Freimarck** GSAS'81: "Cheers to John, former oarsman (where he followed in his older brother's footsteps)."

George continued with his update: "I returned from Munich in mid-July 2020, after almost two years, having set up the continental European practice for Xceedance Consulting, an insurance consulting firm. While in Munich I occasionally rowed with former crewmate Howard Strateman SEAS'73, BUS'76. My wife, Gratia Pellicciotti BC'80, and I returned to our home in Marblehead, near Boston. I work with Stonybrook Capital in its reinsurance practice and row the single scull on the Charles, weather permitting."

Rich Feldman, after 30 years in Westchester, decided that pandemic isolation in Amagansett was the way to go. "You can't imagine the amount of stuff that we have to go through, decide what to throw out and what to keep. It has been overwhelming."

Having lived in Hartley with Rich during our junior year, I don't have to imagine — I know!

Anthony Corea reached out due to my mention of 30 years of Hoboken living: "I grew up in Hoboken and commuted during our college years. As an Italian-American resident of Hoboken, I share your admiration of Frank Sinatra. As a matter of fact, my uncle-in-law was his first cousin, and I grew up listening to his music (even if I personally favor other New Jersey natives like Bruce Springsteen and Southside Johnny!). I had the privilege of going to a Sinatra concert at Brendan Byrne Arena, which was sheer magic. Anyway, if you ever care to hear old Hoboken lore about 'Frankie,' as the old-timers called him, I'd be delighted to fill you in."

John Markowitz GSAS'78, PS'82 is a professor of clinical psychiatry at Columbia and does psychotherapy research at the New York State Psychiatric Institute. His book about the wave of psychiatric problems that's followed the coronavirus, *In the Aftermath of the Pandemic: Interpersonal Psychotherapy for Anxiety, Depression, and PTSD*, came out in February. John shared this: "2020 was awful, and I've had to conduct practice and research remotely via Zoom. I hope that with the distribution of vaccines (and the political change), things will return to something closer to normal."

Robert Siegfried SEAS'78 also mentioned the changes that Covid has brought: "Adelphi University, where I teach computer science, went 100 percent online as of mid-March 2020, and although I had the option of teaching the first half of the spring term in person, I chose to teach online. My wife, Kathy, and I are working from home; she works in our den and I work in my attic office. Like many others, we have been living in sweatpants since the autumn chill arrived, although I have been wearing polos and khakis when teaching so I can feel like I'm still at work (I think most of my students are still in their pajamas)."

Louis Anon checked in: "I lived in Jersey City on Hamilton Park for 28 years until I retired. I now split my time between my husband's and my places in Fort Myers, Fla., and Shelburne, Nova Scotia. We got stuck on this side of the border when it closed and have been quarantining at home for nine months. We're ready to get sprung out of here. We celebrated our 37th anniversary here in our little condo."



Paul Dubner: "I'm better known to friends in Pittsburgh (where I have been a practicing pediatrician for 36 years) as 'Paulie D.' Interesting that you live in Hoboken, since my daughter, son-in-law and their 14-month-old identical girl twins live there. Glad to hear that **Steve Davis** continues to be ageless. This is how I remember him when I visited him and his family in Brockton when we were in college. Would love to get his contact information as well as for **Jon Margolis** and **Allen Weingarten**. Hard to believe it's been 45 years! I would like to think that we are all 'ageless.'"

Charles Martin: "Not a great deal to report in this year of suspended animation for so many. The sad news is my jazz show on Hong Kong radio, *3 O'clock Jump*, ended after a 10-year run. I'm editing a completed mystery novel and starting another, but my only publishing activity last year was courtesy of CCT Online: "The Satisfying Murder: A Checklist" (college.columbia.edu/cct/latest/lions-den/satisfying-murder-checklist-charles-philipp-martin-76).

Another author, **Michael Gilbride**, sent me a copy of his book *Letters*. It is fascinating, and he is well along on his next book.

One of the great pleasures of staying in touch with all of you is the perseverance and dedication that you have exhibited both at Columbia and since. I saved the final update spot for **Hasan Bazari GSAS'79**. He has attended almost all of the re-Zoom-ion events, and I also enjoyed a terrific one-on-one Zoom call with him. Prior to the Zooms, Hasan sent in a long update that shows what our class is all about: "I transitioned from adolescence to adulthood in my journey through Columbia. It took a lot out of me to find my footing at Columbia. I was the guy with the big head of hair that had not been trimmed for two years. Out of the chaos came a drive and focus that was hard to envision in my Columbia days. In my senior year I met Wendy BC'78, and my life transformed. I also did not get into medical school. The alternate career choice was going to graduate school, where I spent the next three years.

"In 1979 I got into the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and have not looked back. I went to Boston and spent 20 years as the

program director of the Internal Medicine Residency Program at the Massachusetts General Hospital. In 2015 I had a stroke, which was a shock to me and stopped me from seeing patients. Since then, I have focused on giving back to the institutions that helped me along the way, namely Columbia and Einstein.

"I married Wendy and have two children, Anissa '06 and Adam '10. Anissa lives in New York and Adam is in Boston. I have no grandchildren yet. We are hunkered down in Boston waiting for our shots. We are in a strange place with nowhere to go. I hope 2021 will be better for the nation. We are a happy Columbia family."

So many of you just send greetings. Two classmates have a time zone issue. **Toomas Hendrik Ilves** has a tough time making our events from Estonia, and **Monte Elias** is in Hawaii. Both say hello to all of you.

I am a lucky '76er! These classmates have been knock-knock-knockin' at my email: **Patrick Bergin, Gordon Bock, Rob Brager, Laurence J. Collins, John Connell, Bob Czekanski, Steve Davis, Dennis Gibbens, Dennis Goodrich (and Mika), Joe Graif, Jon Kushner, Barry LaBoda, Gary Lehman, Steve Lombardi, Tiberio Nascimento, Tom Motley, George Munoz, Jon Margolis, Augustinus Ong, John Sesek, Pete Suranyi, Richard Sussman, Ken Tamashiro, Mozelle Thompson and Allen Weingarten.**

To all of you, thank you for being so inspirational and getting me through the pandemic. Your stories are always great! And I never tire of retelling them in this column, or in emails or conversation. So, keep inspiring, achieving or if you are done, set a great example in retirement!

CCR is now performing "I Heard It Through the Grapevine"! How appropriate!

1977

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And we are back, after nine months off. (And that was a *really* long nine months.) I find that a certain amount of correspondence has accumulated. Normally I condense people's notes, judiciously (or should that be officiously?), but this time

around, I am going to print some things at their full length. It's as if classmates had some extra time in which to record detailed accounts

This from **Jess Lederman:** "For me, 2020 wasn't a total loss, as my novel *Hearts Set Free: An epic tale of love, faith, and the glory of God's grace* (2019) won a couple of awards for religious fiction. I'm hard at work on my next, *The Ballad of Henry Midnight*, which begins in the last days of the Wild West and ends in the year many of us were born, 1955. Between that, trying to see if, after 40 years, I can finally learn Beethoven's *Opus 110*, and chasing after my son, David (5), there aren't enough hours in the day!"

From **Jerry Strauss:** "After 40 years in information technology, most recently at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, I have turned my attention to publishing my first book, *Giving My Father Back His Name: The Fuller Brush Man Meets the Great American Portrait Artist* (2020). This graphic novel is about a door-to-door salesman and the portrait artist who asks him to sit for her. The artist, Alice Neel, becomes famous years later as does her iconic painting *Fuller Brush Man*. This is the story of the man behind the portrait, Dewald Strauss, a Holocaust survivor and war hero, his son's discovery of *Fuller Brush Man* and the struggle for his recognition as the true subject of the previously anonymous painting. Of course, I am the son and the *Fuller Brush Man* is my dad."

Jerry adds that there is a major exhibition of Neel's work, *Alice Neel: People Come First*, which includes *Fuller Brush Man*, at the Met through August 1 (metmuseum.org/exhibitions/listings/2021/alice-neel)

"In other news," Jerry says, "I am very proud of my sons: Eli SW'16, who has an M.S.W., and Justin '19."

And from **Bruce Levine LAW'81:** "After graduating from the College in October 1976 and then the Law School, I continued my life in politics, which began at about 14. I have volunteered in mostly losing presidential campaigns, starting in 1976 for Birch Bayh, then an alternate delegate for Ted Kennedy in 1980, neutral in 1984, Bill Clinton twice (delegate in 1996), Al Gore, Wesley Clark, Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama '83, Obama, Hillary again and Amy Klobuchar last year.

"I worked briefly for Congressman Peter Peyser (D-N.Y.) in 1982 and then served 10 years in the Family Court Law Division of the Rockland County Attorney's Office, representing the county in child abuse, neglect, juvenile delinquency, persons in need of supervision and even in some child support cases. I ran for Congress in 1984 and was the youngest national Democratic candidate for Congress that year, turning 28 in August. A year later, I ran for a seat in the Rockland County Legislature and began serving 10 of my 11 years in the Legislature, becoming chair in 1991 for one year. I served as a law guardian for children in Westchester County for close to 20 years, as I could no longer work in Family Court in Rockland. I stayed in local government for another 10 years until ousted by a new mayor of Spring Valley who was beholden to local developers. I went to work as a disciplinary administrative hearing officer in the state prison system, providing truly fair hearings to close to 1,000 individuals. I retired after my boss informed me that the bureaucracy would never let me transfer to Sing Sing. I try to remain active as a mostly pro bono public interest lawyer, winning a 10-year battle against a proposed multi-family development located in super-close proximity to a major natural gas transmission pipeline. I am currently fighting my town in court on another development case based on a pattern of town-created de facto housing segregation.

"Greatest moment as a lawyer: After about 10 years, a teen whom I had represented in a particularly nasty child abuse case tracked me down and called to let me know she had just gotten her GED. Greatest achievement as an elected official: creating a means-tested, county-funded youth employment program that has provided a first job experience every summer for close to 10,000 teens during the last 24 years. Greatest moment in public life: when the Rockland County executive, who twice vetoed the program, announced that 1,000 kids had been served by it. Biggest failure: locating a full-service, federally funded homeless shelter for single men in a Rockland County facility within my own district.

"I am in my 35th year of happily married life with Ann Nordon and have one daughter, Zoe Levine '17,

who is in law school at Northwestern University in Chicago.”

Yet more next time! Share your news with me via email, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

1978

Matthew Nemerson
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Thanks again for another great response — our now more reflective and loquacious class makes my job even easier.

Don Simone is at Hunton Andrews Kurth. “I’m winding down my career as a real estate finance attorney,” he writes. “Expect to retire in the next year or two, once we go back to the office and I can fully transition my practice and say goodbye to my colleagues and clients in person and not by Zoom.

“This last year gave me a greater appreciation of the essential workers in our society. The staff in my building, the clerks in the grocery stores, the transit workers, the doctors and nurses. I live in NYC and have always interacted with them. But now I see them more clearly and appreciate their effort so much more.

“For me, Covid-19 was a time to look at things in a different way, to think outside of the box. I came to Columbia from a somewhat narrow Catholic school background and suddenly was part of an amazingly diverse community. I remember poring over a text in one of my classes, listening to another student’s analysis, and, realizing I saw none of that in the text, needed to go back and look at it in another way. That ability to step back, restart, get creative and figure out a solution served me well this past year.”

From Houston we hear from **Julian Thorne** GSAS’85: “I first thought of being a music composition major at Columbia but was not encouraged to pursue this by teachers. I switched to geology, which was a great choice, as it led to a Ph.D. and a long career. I retired as a research geologist several months ago and have returned full force to music composition. This morning I finished my 83rd symphony. Then I was at the park singing spontaneous songs to strangers using their first name. Just now I finished sorting 1,500 of my shorter instrumental pieces into

25 types of video background music (visit safeheaven.org to listen). My wife, Paula, and I go on a walk each day to listen to the new music, but it would be great to have a few listeners from alma mater.”

Bennett Caplan, from Maryland’s Global Management Trade Services, summed up Covid’s lessons with “Less travel and more Zoom!”

A feeling that a lot of us I am sure share.

Bennett continues, “I’m happily married with two children, one of whom is also a Columbia College grad. It is humbling to realize that, despite all the king’s horses and all the king’s men, the pandemic mortality in the United States is of the same order of magnitude as in 1918. In many places the national response has been disturbingly political and unscientific.”

“Our devotion to tribalism appears to underscore an innate human response to a crisis,” notes Dr. **Kevin Vitting**, from the Suburban Nephrology Group in New Jersey. He adds, “Our confidence has been deeply wounded. The virus will continue to smolder in the underserved pockets of our world. But I suspect that the intense desire of most of us to travel and to mingle will return most of the world to normal activity over the next few years.”

“Do not take life, family, friends for granted,” warns another medical professional, **Tony Dellicarri** of the Mental Health Association of Westchester, reflecting on Covid. “I’m waiting out the pandemic — fully vaccinated — and doing mental health counseling for those who really need support during this time of necessary loneliness. Luckily, my family is healthy, and we all have been working throughout the past year. Columbia taught us to know, that despite it all, humanity will recover from this.”

“Columbia taught us about resilience,” says Dr. **Steven Wexner**, the top colorectal surgeon at the Cleveland Clinic Florida - Weston, in Weston, Fla., about Covid. “Both of my sons live in NYC; I was recently elected vice-chair, Board of Regents, American College of Surgeons.”

Another big-deal doctor, Northwell Health’s brain surgeon Dr. **Michael Schulder** PS’82, wrote a long stream of witty and insightful notes, some of which include his take on Covid: “Living in Manhattan during this is a bigger challenge

than 1970s decay, the 2008 financial crash or 9-11. How this is not obvious to various pundits amazes me. For the first time people don’t need to come to the city to work. Will the ‘fun things’ that attracted people still do so, when they don’t need to come to Manhattan to shop, eat out or get their entertainment? Will tourists return and support Broadway as they have for two decades? Who the hell knows? If this is a civilization turning point, the only sure thing is that there’s no way to tell in the middle of it!”

And, commenting on the plight of New York’s governor, Mike adds, “This is all politics in the raw, not a morality play. CC? The wonderful Tom Horne might have asked us if the current moment was informed more by Edmund Burke or Eric Hobsbawm (OMG, I actually did write that?)!”

Dr. **Robert Crochelt** writes, “With my wife, Donna Smith, who is in obstetrics, I have relocated to Ukiah, Calif. I am emerging from retirement to part time, covering surgery call. We are near the coast, which we both love. After a few wobbles our health remains good. CC taught us science is intricate, difficult, complicated and useful, and that times of strife have always occurred throughout human history. Deniers and anti-maskers occurred as recently as 1918. Same thing with Fascism: There were pro-Nazi groups in the USA right up to the Pearl Harbor attack.”

Brian Guillorn LAW’82 opines: “During this year I frequently thought of the speech of Pericles, when he observed that children normally bury their parents, but in times of war parents must bury their children. Not exactly on point, but as one of the ancient Greeks noted, the gods act in capricious fashion, and you cannot judge people’s lives until you know how they died. I also thought of the heroic efforts of the first responders and healthcare workers, which were inspiring and humbling. Unfortunately, you need to suffer a great loss in order to begin to truly understand the wisdom that mourning is for the living. With age comes wisdom, we hope.

“I live in relatively rural Ulster County, N.Y., with my wife, Polly Gregor BC’79, GSAS’86. Polly and I have been living together since we met at Barnard in 1976. I

cannot believe it has been 45 years. Three grown kids and two German Shepherds, as well as ducks, chickens, turkeys and geese. We’re not homesteaders exactly, but we grow our own fruits and veggies and buy as much as we can from local farmers,” Brian adds.

Larry Sackler ’79 unloads with, “In the wake of Covid — since retiring from my 29-year career as an elementary school teacher in Brooklyn — I’ve returned to writing and performing music with two bands. It’s a throwback to my days as singer-lyricist with Columbia’s gonzo on-campus band Burnt Turkey. I keep in touch with bandmates **Mason Diamond**, Luiza Diamond, Artie Gold ’77 and Tom Dunder ’80. I am compiling and digitizing some serviceable recordings of the band, and I hope to share these online in the fall.

“The band was part of the eclectic ’70s campus music scene. Needle Dik, The Power Tools, and Sick Dick and The Volkswagens moved within the shared circle of aspiring musicians. I would like to think, at the very least, collectively, we held the line against the encroachment of disco ... for at least 10 minutes.

“Finally, I hope 2021 brings sanity and civility back to our shared reality. I bid you all a fond soul’s wink.”

Jonathan Freedman, at NYC’s Sidley Austin, says, “The pandemic has taught us the real power of science to deal with societal issues. We have to learn to listen to the scientists. They were able to come up with a number of vaccines in less than 12 months. That is an amazing feat. I do think one thing that will surely change is the nature of work. While fully remote work won’t become the norm, some work-from-home settings will clearly last.

Jonathan adds, “My son William [25], now at Bronx Science, will attend Columbia starting in the fall. I went to the Columbia Bookstore and bought him sweatshirts, the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*. Never too early for Lit Hum! I am retiring, after 40 years of practicing corporate law. I have loved my legal career, and there is a lot that I will miss, but I have now been accepted to the master’s program in American studies at GSAS. So, I’m going to study American history, especially the post-WWII period. My advisor, Professor Jim Shenton ’49, GSAS’54, would, I hope, be proud!”



He was my advisor, too, and boy, rarely a day goes by lately that I don't wish I could sit down and talk to him!

An authentic long-time reader, first-time writer! **Gregory Leghart** writes, "This is my first note in 43 years. I'm a physiatrist in Virginia. My wife and I enjoy our empty nest, with three children off with their careers. Covid taught us that we will get along well when we finally retire. We have one dog and are hoping for grandkids. I worked at the same small rehabilitation hospital for the last 28 years and will start an academic position at VCU this summer. I look forward to new challenges and using the lessons learned over the years."

Delaware's Ballard Spahr senior partner, **David Margules**, updates us: "Michelle Seltzer BC'77, and I, after 41 years, have four sons: Andy, a urologist in Philly; Elliot, a public defender in Wilmington, Del.; Sam, who runs an electronics warehouse in Delaware; and Will, who is finishing up at Hunter College."

Thanks, everyone, for another packed column!

1979

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Dr. **Neville Alleyne** reminds me that "we both started out here (Cali) at the same time — 1989." He adds, "I started out doing total joints and spine, and during the last 20 years I have only been doing spine. I was one of the pioneers in robotic spine surgery (one of the first four hospitals in the United States to adopt this technology) and have confined my surgical practice to complex deformity and degenerative spinal conditions in adults. As a result of implementing this technology we have been named in the 100 Best Hospitals in the US for Spine Surgery 2020."

"I have enjoyed writing patents and have several issued. I am working with multiple spine companies on developing technologies to improve spine care for my patients. I am president of my group, Orthopedic Specialists of North County, and the chief of orthopedics at Tri-City Medical Center in Oceanside, Calif."

"I live in beautiful La Jolla with my wife of 30 years and three children, who all have attended

Columbia College (Go, Lions!). I am in touch with Dr. **Larry DiFabrizio**, Dr. **Joey Fiorito** PS'83, **Marco Gottardis** Ph.D. and Dr. **Rich Milford**."

So, Neville, you were a pioneer in robotic spine surgery. The only pioneers I know had cowboy hats.

Frank Aquila writes, "Since I haven't been able to find another job since 1983, I am still at Sullivan & Cromwell, where I head the global mergers and acquisitions practice. The only good thing to come out of the pandemic is that my wife, Cathy, and I have spent a good portion of the last year at our home on Captiva Island with our three daughters, grandson, son-in-law and future son-in-law."

Frank, this reminds me of the joke: "What's the difference between in-laws and outlaws? Outlaws are wanted."

News from **José Abete**, who lives an hour's drive south of Marrakech in the Atlas Mountains of Morocco: "I am secretary-general of the Fondation Jardin Majorelle in Marrakech and serve on its Board of Directors. The nonprofit foundation oversees the Majorelle Garden, the Musée Yves Saint Laurent Marrakech and the Pierre Bergé Museum of Berber Arts. I have a passion for translating from French to English and plan to learn Tashelhit, the Berber language spoken in this region. Ever since traveling has become more difficult, I have stayed in Morocco, which has done a great job of dealing with the pandemic. Otherwise I spend a lot of time in Paris and at a home near Bordeaux."

José, I have one question, "Have you ever met Graham Nash? I hear he knows a lot about Marrakech!"

Vince Passaro SOA'88 is a loyal reader of this column, "tracking how far behind my peers I might have fallen in success and development, I'm happy to send along news of a novel I'm publishing on September 14, *Crazy Sorrow*. The pub date has been selected to coincide (roughly) with the anniversary of the fall of the World Trade Center towers; it opens with Columbia students downtown on July 4, 1976, the towers just behind them, as they watch, from the landfill that will become Battery Park City, the Bicentennial fireworks show over the harbor. The towers play a role at a couple of other key points in the book and of course, as the story covers 40 years (1976–2016) in the

lives of its main characters (all College or Barnard alums), we see the buildings burn and fall. It's a novel of New York almost as much as it is of any single character."

Well, Vince, I was a single character during those four years at the College, and I gotta tell you, the only crazy sorrow I had was leaving the eggplant pizza at V&T, soon to be a major motion picture.

Robert C. Klapper: Today's Columbia thought is an inorganic chemical compound with the chemical formula KMnO_4 , better known as potassium permanganate. It's used as a wet dressing for wounds that are blistering or oozing. It's also used for athlete's foot and impetigo. The key aspect is that it happens to be purple.

Forty-five years ago, as a freshman at the College, I was forced to take inorganic, or better known as freshman, chemistry, with many of you reading this column who were lucky enough to go to high schools like Bronx Science, Stuyvesant, Philips Andover Academy, Choate and Flatbush Yeshiva. Yes, Flatbush Yeshiva. These were all schools that had the ability for a senior in high school to take AP chemistry. Now if you decided not to count that senior course, as a way to advance out of freshman chemistry, then taking it as the same course as a freshman at Columbia was a piece of cake.

I was not so lucky, and as a pre-med student, this was a new experience for me. The droning of the professor and his ineptitude at teaching made the class that much more difficult for someone who had never seen a molecule spelled out. For me, chemistry in high school and certainly the laboratory involved lighting a Bunsen burner and watching the hair burn off the top of my lab partner's head. It was a shock for me to not only take this class, but also to excel in it, knowing many of my classmates had a head start.

The final exam in the laboratory consisted of building this molecule from scratch and being able to take clear liquids, then carefully boiling them, mixing them, crystallizing them and diluting them, in an effort to build this single molecule. I can't believe I'm reliving this nightmare 45 years later, but I find it fascinating to share the memories of our four years at the College every time I sit down to write this column.

The reason I am sharing it with you is because I find so many things in life so subjective, and I believe the frustrations in our lives can come from this lack of exactness to an answer. Even when we watch sports, the referee truly influences the result of the Super Bowl by how many penalties they call. You think the scoreboard is an objective result of win versus lose, but it's really not; the referees have an influence of what we think is an exact outcome. This holds true for basketball as well; how many fouls are called will influence the game. In baseball, the umpire calling balls and strikes, even with instant replay, still has an undue influence on the game.

I used to believe track and field and the 100-yard dash was the purest, or the swimmer whose hand touches the wall first was the "true" winner, but with the performance-enhancing drug and steroid epidemic in athletes, professional and amateur, it seems like everyone is cheating, which brings me back to potassium permanganate.

I know this inorganic chemistry class was designed to weed out the pre-med students and I was one of those who fortunately succeeded, and I'm here to say I remember exactly nothing from that class, but I did take away one important lesson. It was the purity and truth that that final exam in freshman chemistry laboratory taught me.

For those who were not tortured by this class, you must understand that the process of taking clear liquids and mixing them and boiling them and carefully dripping them had to be done with extreme precision. No step could be short cut, and if you were true in your exacting and precision, after hours of work the final drip of the experiment turned that final liquid purple. Sitting next to me in that class was a classmate who spent all those hours and got to the final move and dripped the two solutions together and they remained clear. To this day I can feel his grief.

On the other hand, for yours truly that a-ha moment occurred when these two clear solutions ultimately combined like a teardrop and turned purple. I had created potassium permanganate, and I did not need anyone to confirm my success, because what I was looking at was now purple.

As the world we live in now gets ever more confusing in terms of who

and what to believe, I learned that lesson in a chemistry class that was for me more than about learning about chemicals. Roar, lion, roar.

1980

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As I write this column, I am struck by a recent statistic from Major League Baseball: Thirteen players tested positive among 4,336 tests given in the first week of spring training, a positivity rate of .03 percent. Yet the Ivy League cannot figure out how to get sports back. We really need to ask President Lee C. Bollinger why it has been this way for the athletes.

It was great to hear from **Neil Sader**: "As a 40-year Kansas City Chiefs fan, I was in touch and talking football with several classmates during the NFL playoffs. By the time the Super Bowl came around, **Todd Samuels**, **Gregg Semler**, **Lanny Breuer** and I were all rooting for the Chiefs to repeat and had quite the group text going before and during the game. We exchanged pictures of our watchrooms and gear, and then unfortunately the game started. Despite the score, it was great being in touch and rooting with fellow Lions across the country! I hope next year we will have a better result."

Well, Neil, let's hope Tom Brady and his fountain of youth run out of miracle elixir!

Best drop me a line mcbcu80@yahoo.com.

1981

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[Editor's note: **Kevin Costa** takes the lead in this issue.]

Welcome to the all-new Class of '81 column. Dan, Rich and I thank **Kevin Fay** for holding down the fort for these many years. As we relieve him, we have been thinking about the purpose of these columns. Many of you are on Facebook or Instagram and keep in touch with

classmates and other friends from the Columbia community through social media. Given that, why would you turn these fine glossy pages to read about people you went to school with two generations ago?

We want this column to be interesting enough for you and other alumni from our era, but we're also hoping for more than that: to give graduates from other decades a flavor of what we've done and where we're going.

So, we invite everyone to share, especially those who haven't written in a long time, or perhaps have never written. Send us your stories. Let's hear about the eccentric client, patient, donor, constituent or customer; the semi-obscure place you visited; your hobbies and interests; and the surprises of your life. Or tell us stories from college, like how something you learned in the Core Curriculum 44 years ago is affecting your life today.

We will also take an active role in making this column better. If you don't feel like submitting anything about yourself, that's fine. You can also write and tell us whom you would like to hear from.

The country seems to be terribly divided these days. In this modest space, we hope to create some community. We all have a unique set of shared experiences that binds us, whether it's pondering Aristotle on the 14th floor of SIPA while looking over West Harlem's burnt-out buildings, going to a downtown dance club that showed rock videos three years before the premiere of MTV or experiencing the Marching Band at a football game — or in a raucous performance in the library the night before the orgo final. These are things we share. West Harlem has changed, Columbia has changed, we have all changed, but whatever and however things have changed, our column, and your participation that sustains it, offers an opportunity to build our community. By the time you read this, our virtual 40th reunion will have taken place. We invite you to share your pandemic and post-news activities as together we head toward our 45th.

As for me, I hope to write about myself here as infrequently as possible. For 27 years I have been in a bimonthly book group that we jokingly call The Pale Fire Literary Society. It was founded by George

Stevenson '80, SOA'99 and includes **Dave Cook**.

Dave writes: "I've spent most of my professional life since graduating as a writer and an editor. In 2005 I launched a website, *Eating in Translation*, and a few years later I began working as a freelance photojournalist with a focus on food. Many of my recent assignments have been for an online publication, *Culinary Backstreets*.

"Exploring food and immigrant foodways in New York City, let alone farther afield, became much more difficult with the onset of the pandemic. During the first few months, when public transportation was unavailable, I was limited to takeout from restaurants, street vendors and other businesses within walking distance of my apartment. I still live just south of the main Columbia campus, and in the immediate neighborhood, pickings were slim.

"But Chelsea, Chinatown and the East Village were within reach; so were Washington Heights and the South Bronx, East Harlem and Astoria. The greater challenges were finding somewhere to sit with my takeout orders — I ate many meals at those grey-and-green chess tables in parks and playgrounds — and making the return trip. Walking five miles for a change of scenery, and for variety in my diet, never seemed nearly as taxing as walking five miles back home.

"In recent months, New York City restaurants have rebounded with limited indoor as well as outdoor dining. The neighborhood has a great new Vietnamese restaurant on Amsterdam Avenue, a famous Brooklyn pizzeria has announced a location on Broadway and street vendors are still going strong. But I still miss the fairs, festivals and other food events that showcase dishes, and sometimes cuisines, that are readily available to the general public only on special occasions, such as national and religious holidays. Many of these events are organized by members of local churches, mosques, temples, social clubs and the like. Even in spring 2021, few of these groups were considering events where large numbers of strangers will gather.

"The gathering is the important part, and not just for the organizers. In past years, at many of these events I could count on running into 10, 12, even 20 colleagues and friends.

We'd trade tips on great food that we'd hunted down and happened upon — and we'd have an opportunity just to meet up, and to catch up. However wonderful the food might be, it's the getting together that I've been missing more.

"I have another website — *Columbia Bands* — that could use help from CCT readers. It's a collection of flyers promoting the performances, on or around campus or at downtown clubs, of bands that were active in the late '70s through the early '80s. These were the sort of flyers that were taped up in dorms, in libraries and outside frats, or wheat-pasted to lampposts and at bus stops. You know many of the bands, and you might remember a few of the flyers. Please visit the site, and if you have any of your own memorabilia to contribute, get in touch!"

Thanks, Dave. Although our class did not produce any musicians with the notoriety of Suzanne Vega BC'81, we did have a thriving music scene, and we hope to feature our musician classmates very soon.

Now, here is George: "The Pale Fire Literary Society grew directly from my undergraduate enthusiasms for books (English major), arts journalism (*Spectator* features editor) and movies (habitué of 511 Dodge Hall). I started as a literary agent, then went to magazines, where I reviewed new and classic films for *Video and V* (both defunct) and book reviews for newspapers: *The Village Voice* and *New York Newsday* (also both defunct). Eventually I became an editor on the news desk at the latter, where my good friend Tim Page '79 was the classical music critic.

"From there I became an editor at *Variety* and when that also became defunct, I took my severance and went back to Columbia to get an M.F.A. in film. After graduation, I shuttled between journalism — *New York Daily News* (still ticking, for now) and the *New York Sun* (defunct) — and writing/directing for film production companies (all defunct) until everything got too defunct-y for me in the wake of the 2007–08 financial crisis.

"Thus began my teaching career, at NYIT (journalism), William Paterson University (film) and CUNY's Borough of Manhattan Community College, where I am an associate professor of video arts and technology and the media studies



coordinator. At BMCC I began the Time Warner Screenwriting Fellowship, the three cohorts of which have produced a number of highly placed Nicholl Fellowship scripts and from which I am developing a series of podcast versions of the truly extraordinary work done by as varied a group of students the New York City public school system could produce. Three of my students have, with my heartfelt recommendations, become Columbia undergraduates.

"I am also developing an audio podcast version of one of Dawn Powell's novels, which began as a screenplay written with Tim, Powell's biographer and literary champion. And I recently started a movie watch party/group in which we watch a classic movie streamed on Amazon Prime and then discuss it via Zoom. The group has so far included **Stuart Christie** and many of my SOA classmates, including George Robinson '75, SOA '77, now as then, my mentor in all things cinematic."

Thanks, George. That's it for this issue. My thanks to my new partners in reportage. See you all next time.

1982

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Gentlemen, I hope you're doing well and have had the chance to get the latest and greatest from Pfizer or Moderna. I've been fortunate enough to be able to continue my chat with the accomplished Dr. **Charles Markowitz** on the topic of Covid-19. As presented in the Winter 2020–21 column, Charles has been doing some important work developing and managing a Covid recovery program in New Jersey. There was a wonderful interview with him; definitely worth checking out online: bit.ly/3gpCBqt.

Thanks, Charles!

Checking in this month, another of our highly accomplished classmates, **Ira Tattelman**, writes: "No better time to write an update, as I turned 60 in 2020 (like many of you). Of course, I had a quiet celebration — not what I had hoped. But, I was pleased to reach another decade.

"I now am a full-time artist. Since making that decision, I've had artist residencies in Rome, Skopje, North Macedonia and this year in

New Smyrna Beach, Fla. It's great to learn about other cultures while doing what I love.

"I am a multi-disciplinary artist, which includes photography, video, printmaking and installation. A lot of my practice takes place on Instagram, @Tattelman, #SpaceAroundUs and @on_the_elephant_path. It is a daily process. I appreciate its reach and regularity.

"In 2020, I also had the good fortune of joining Gaby Mizes Fine Art. I am excited to work with this experienced art advisor. Let's see what 2021 brings, here in Washington, D.C., and with my art."

I checked out the Gaby Mizes Fine Art website (gabymizes.com) to explore Ira's work. It's a really beautiful collection; well worth taking a look!

Stay safe and stay in touch! Share your news with me via email, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

1983

Roy Pomerantz
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Kevin G. Chapman is preparing for the November 22 release of book number 3 in his Mike Stoneman Thriller series, *Lethal Voyage*. Kevin says he has had a ball writing crime-thriller novels (while keeping his day job as in-house labor counsel for Dow Jones & Co.). Books number 1 and 2 in the series were semi-finalists in the 2019 and 2020 Kindle Book Award Mystery/Thriller category. *Lethal Voyage* is already getting great reviews. All the books are available as paperbacks and Kindle edition ebooks, and the audiobooks, which Kevin narrated, are available on Audible, Apple Books, Nook and Chirp, and at all major audiobook retailers.

Jonathan Clark Green: "It's official! I have been elected judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Ill. I am truly humbled by this great honor, and thank all who have supported me throughout this effort.

"If you are interested in my charitable work, including Little City Foundation for the Developmentally Disabled (where I have an older brother and sister; I'm their guardian) and Top Box Foods (where my wife, Monica, and I continue to deliver

fresh foods to the isolated and seniors in Chicago during this pandemic), please visit jonathancclarkgreen.com."

Tony Winton: "Since leaving Associated Press after 30 years of exciting news coverage, I've done a bit of consulting and content creating, but am now focused on starting a nonprofit online newspaper in my home of Key Biscayne, Fla. Thanks to social media, I'm in touch with a few classmates who shared microphones with me at WKCR. So many great radio memories from Columbia — from live jazz at The West End (don't ask how we did it) to Lions football with **Ed Barbini**, to hosting a debate with Mayor Ed Koch and even coverage of the first space shuttle launch (and a crazy road trip).

"I'm married to Irene Porter, an appellate attorney, and proud of my son, Connor, and my stepdaughters, Susan and Cheryl. When I go back to New York, I make a point of stopping at my second home, V&T. I was there so often, one of the wait staff recognized me on a trip a few years ago!"

Nick Mayer: "My wife, Nelly, and I moved to Philadelphia five years ago. We are fixing up an old home. I have great memories of my College years. Sadly, several of my close friends — **Steve Heyman**, **Joe Widowfield**, **Jose Meraz** and **Jonathan Goldman** — passed away at much-too-young ages. I really miss them. I miss many of my professors — Wallace Gray, Karl-Ludwig Selig and Diane Stevenson (freshman comp) to name just three. I remember that I did not buy the '83 yearbook because **Bill Carney** and I had cracked each other's foreheads in an intramural flag football game right before we had our pictures taken. Not wanting to possess my besmirched photo with a yellow bandage across my forehead, I declined to spend the \$20, and I regret passing on this 'badge of courage' photo. If anyone has access to it, I would love to see a screenshot. It is captioned 'Old yellerehead.' Sending best wishes to all classmates."

Rob Kahn: "When Covid-19 shut down the city, I had to close my SoHo music and audio studio. Working from my UWS apartment proved impossible, so I moved to our weekend home in Dutchess County, N.Y., where I had more room to spread out and make noise. I've been living here full time, with only a few short

visits to the city, and I have to say, I'm enjoying life here. I miss the energy of the city, but since that energy is muted for now, I'll just stay here.

"My son graduated from Chicago this spring and is staying in that city to live and work. My older daughter has given up her ballet career (for now) and is studying at University of Texas at Austin. My youngest is a senior at Hunter College H.S. and plans to take a gap year before starting college.

"We've had a few CC'83 reunions on Zoom that have included **Bob Gamiel**, **Bob Montay SEAS'83**, **Bruce Robertson**, **Marty Avalone**, **Paul Saputo**, **Mark Darlington** and **Jon Ross**."

The New York Mets announced last November that **David Newman** was named to the newly created position of executive VP, chief marketing, content and communications officer. Read more online: atmlb.com/3dz7GX1.

David adds: "I have stayed in contact with **Ed Barbini**, **Mark Momjian** and **Lawrence Silverman**, and look forward to seeing **Jordan Sprechman**, **Ron Blum** and **SNY** broadcaster **Gary Cohen** '81 at Citi Field."

Peter Fumo: "I keep in touch with my best friend, **Andy Botti**. My favorite Columbia professor was Ron Breslow. I practically idolized him. I am a nephrologist (kidney specialist) and chair of medicine at Chestnut Hill Hospital in Philadelphia. My passions are college football, history, politics and reading. I am rereading some of the books from my CC class, which I still have, currently *The Marx Engels Reader* (I assure you I am not a Marxist!). My daughter is applying to college next year. Columbia will be on her list.

"My fondest memories of Columbia were my classes; my fraternity, Psi Upsilon; and my fraternity brothers. My big memories also include the hostage crisis and watching Ted Koppel every night, John Lennon's death and the New York Islanders winning four straight Stanley Cups."

Nick Paone's band Retrofix has been on hold during the pandemic. His daughter Lillian, who completed her freshman year at Ithaca, has taken a year off to be a congressional intern. Beats remote "college." His wife, while still a half-time art teacher, is one year into a career as a

real estate agent. Nick is looking for a new opportunity as a trial lawyer.

Philip Dolin SOA'84's film company, Particle Productions, has been pandemic pivoting. It recently produced all the videos for the Institute of Energy Economics and Financial Analysis Virtual Conference 2020. IEEEFA.org usually holds the event at the Law School, but decided to experiment and go virtual this year. It was a great success, but it hopes to return to campus next year for a live conference.

David Ko writes: "My favorite Columbia professor was Donald Hood, of neuropsychology. His enthusiasm fostered my interest in neuroscience and led me into neurology. Kept in touch with **Yung-Ho Lee**, who also became an M.D.

"I taught at Keck School of Medicine at USC for 22 years and moved to Loma Linda University three years ago. Teaching medical students and young doctors using the Socratic method is a great, invigorating part of medicine. I participated in clinical research on many new epilepsy drugs, even presenting at the FDA several times. Neurology is a great specialty, and you can really help colleagues and patients. This is the triple threat of medicine: practice, research and teaching. Another facet of medicine is administration, and I was chief of neurology at LAC+USC hospital and now at the VA Loma Linda. Neurology is a challenging field, but it gets more cerebral by being a medical-legal expert.

"I'm also involved in medical organization leadership and medical

education, which offered travel opportunities. The most interesting place I visited was North Korea.

"I live in Pasadena in a house with Columbia colors and go to the Rose Bowl to enjoy the '37 plaque. I'm married to Eva Ko and have two kids; they went to the same school as **Andy Barth's** kids. My youngest, Ryan, made a music video: bit.ly/3xbs4oT. It was made before my trip to North Korea; I survived, but I hope to survive corona as a physician."

Carl Faller sent me a mint-condition Gene Larkin '84 baseball card. My son is a huge Columbia baseball fan and a collector. Carl also sent me a postcard of Havemeyer, which I framed and put in my office.

Paul Lerner and **Stephen Reich** sent me a beautiful holiday card titled "Field and Light."

Elliot Quint sent me a breathtaking painting of an ocean at sunset. It would be a centerpiece in any NYC gallery. Countless people comment on it when they walk into my office.

Contact me if you want to purchase one of Elliot's works.

I am deeply saddened to report the death of Tom Vinciguerra '85, JRN'86, GSAS'90 on February 22, 2021. Tom died following a year of failing health. He was a longtime associate editor of *CCT* and single-handedly revived the Philolexian literacy and debate society, one of the nation's oldest; he was officially recognized as the society's "Avatar." Tom was a huge Columbia supporter and a regular at Homecoming and other Columbia events. His hundreds of articles published in *The New York Times* were witty, unique and scholarly. I joined with several other members of the College community in submitting an *NYT* obituary for Tom (legacy.co/3eiwYrB). *CCT* also has an obituary in this issue.

Looking forward to seeing you at Homecoming and catching up. It has been a long time, and I miss all of you!

1984

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At the urging of **David Cavicke**, we must take a moment to pay our respects to dear friend **George "Jorge" L. Martinez** SEAS'84, '85: "The pride of Brooklyn Tech,

George L. Martinez, died in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., on December 18, 2020, from a short, but virulent, case of pancreatic cancer. The nurses reported that George was jovial to the end, with a joke or a smile for all. RIP."

I regret that I did not know George well (I think we were in the same gym class freshman year), and although he entered with our class and walked with CC'85 with degrees from Columbia Engineering and the College, I have learned that he was one of the select few to have lived freshman year at Eli White, the St. Luke's Hospital nursing residence.

If you may recall, when we entered the College, East Campus was still being built, and Columbia had a serious space issue. According to a *Spec* article in April 1979, this led the administration to rent two floors, "guarantee[ing] Columbia 108 rooms for a one-year period." It was the second year that the hospital rented space to the College, for use by College, Engineering and nursing students.

As one of those students not guaranteed housing, as I lived within a 50-mile radius and could take public transit, I had to campaign and beg on a daily basis. To get a leg up on the competition, flowers and chocolates were delivered weekly to the staff. Ask **Joe Bernstein**! He started it!

And while the majority of freshmen lived in Carman Hall, where I ended up, I have always admired the *esprit des corps* of those who lived "beyond the pale," particularly at Eli White and McBain (more on this next issue). Thanks to dear friends **James Weinstein**, **Ben Pushner** and **Mark Gill**, I remember hearing some funny stories, none of which I can honestly recall this moment, and one or two that were probably unpublishable.

So, having suffered an *annus horribilis*, I thought it best we regroup and take a moment to remember the good times. With special thanks to **James Weinstein** for helping me with this list, I'd like to honor the crazy Columbia College Crew, consisting of David, James, Ben, Mark, **Lee Armus**, **Mike Mahelsky**, **Pete Cannon**, **Greg Deligdisch**, **Todd Sussman**, **John Behre**, **Larry Delaney**, **Andy Byer**, **Paul Auwaerter**, **Dave Stewart**, **Sam Silverman**, **Steve Taylor** ... and of course, **Jorge**.

Daniel Aaron Cohen recently published an audiobook, *It's Not*

All About You! The Secret Joy of Practical Humility; it's available from Google Play at danielaaroncohen.com. Daniel is also co-host of *The Overcomer Hour*, a weekly Zoom program where he explores the paths to humility and interviews guests on Covid-19-related issues. You can also hear Daniel, aka The Humility Czar, croon his autobiographical blues song, "The Corona Blues" on YouTube: bit.ly/3fw1SPp. Remember, that's Daniel Aaron Cohen, for, as he reminds us, "The universe is lousy with Daniel Cohens."

If you did not receive my last e-blast, it included a photo with a picture of yours truly and a celebrity who entertained us during Senior Week. **John Albin** can best explain: "[T]he Pat Metheny concert during Senior Week '84 ... was the first time I saw him, and it was a formative experience. At the time, I was playing guitar in two campus-based bands: TMB, which played at Senior Week, and Academy 23. I got to know many other people through the CU music scene, many of whom I still encounter. For me, it has never been a career, but rather a lifelong pursuit incubated in the many fantastic campus venues and inspired by others' examples and by the friendships and partnerships I formed there."

Shoutout to fellow band members **Mike Melkonian**, **Greg Poe**, **Rob Kahn** '83 and **Jim Lynch** '85.

Crazy times: Not one, but two classmates publishing books on great cities! **Peter Lunenfeld**, a professor and vice-chair of the Design Media Arts department at UCLA, brings us *City at the Edge of Forever: LA Revisited*. Not only is it an homage to his adopted city, but it's also chock-full of crazy historical facts and characters that could only be brought to life by a non-historian, digital media guru, and boy, is it super entertaining! Per **Norman Klein**, a fellow author, "[Lunenfeld] has assembled a witty, graceful history of LA's folk myths, introducing us to demi-and quasi-celebrities"

I absolutely loved it. Great read.

Tom Dyja, whose previous award-winning book, *The Third Coast*, about Chicago, has literally (on March 21, as I write this) just released *New York, New York, New York: Four Decades of Success, Excess, and Transformation*. Featured on the cover of *The New York Times Book Review* on March 21,



Let us know if you have a new postal or email address, a new phone number or even a new name:
college.columbia.edu/alumni/connect.



fellow author Kevin Baker heralded it as a “tour de force, a work of astonishing breadth and depth that encompasses seminal changes in New York’s government and economy, along with deep dives into hip-hop the AIDS crisis, the visual arts, housing, architecture and finance.”

I cannot wait to get it! Kudos once again.

Last, but not least, we learned of the February 22, 2021, passing of Tom Vinciguerra ’85, JRN’86, GSAS’90.

Column-mate Jon White ’85 and *CCT* report this sad news in more depth (see “Obituaries”), but I would like to share just a few thoughts. Tom and I met as a result of his friendship with Adam Belanoff and Beth Knobel BC’84, and he stayed in touch all these years. In fact, he lived only five minutes from my home in Long Island. We talked and emailed often, and we met at least three or four times yearly at Homecoming, basketball games and reunions. He was always keenly and honestly interested in the well-being of Columbia and its institutions, including the Marching Band, but especially *Spec* and his baby, the Philolexian Society of Columbia University, which he single-handedly revived and which exists even today. In his honor, I would like to say goodbye using the term he fondly called me, and other Columbians with whom he stayed in touch all these years: “So long, Old Lion.”

1985

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We have several California reports.

First, it’s always great to hear from Michael Cho: “Greetings from Alameda, where our current Covid-19 status is ‘Red,’ which means we can get body wax treatments, but bowling is still not allowed! I hope everyone is keeping their humor and spirits up as we slowly return back to what we used to call ‘normal.’ It’s been a very conflicted year for our family, as I’ve loved having our college-age kids at home, but also realize my happiness is not shared by them, as they long to be near their friends just like I did when I was at Columbia.

“Professionally, launching a startup in the midst of a pandemic was prob-

ably not the smartest thing to do, but luckily Zoom turned out to be a godsend, as it allowed us to take on more customers by eliminating the need to drive and meet them face to face. For us, going back to the way it was seems less appealing than finding a better balance as we all wake from our self-inflicted hibernation. Given what we all experienced the past year, I would like to challenge everyone to attend our 40th reunion in 2025 ... I can’t be this old!”

Dr. A. Dimetrios Colevas continues with a busy academic medical oncology practice at Stanford. “We have seen how fear of SARS CoV-2 infection has kept patients from seeking care, another reminder of the penumbra of mortality increase beyond Covid itself associated with this pandemic. Now virtually all of my patients 65 or older are vaccinated, and there is a huge shift in hope for the future ... it is the defining fact of my year.”

Many are aware of the tragic and far-too-early-death of Tom Vinciguerra JRN’86, GSAS’90. There is an obituary in this issue, and you can read the *New York Times* obituary online that was submitted by several Columbians: [legcy.co/3eiwYrB](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/23/us/obituaries/tom-vinciguerra).

Mark Fallick was Tom’s next-door neighbor in Furnald during our senior year, “when I first got to know him. Although we did not stay in touch, whenever I saw one of his many articles, it connected me back to Columbia. He certainly was a great champion for Columbia, and I will miss seeing his writing in *CCT* and elsewhere.”

Mark also reported that although Covid was not the only reason, it certainly played a part in his decision to make a career change. “After 22-plus years of trying to help couples with male infertility have children, performing vasectomies on Friday afternoons while listening to Eric Clapton and other aspects of a urology practice in Southern New Jersey, I have left clinical medicine. I am excited to start my next career. I now am director, medical science, at Myovant Sciences, a biopharma company with the goal to ‘redefine care for women and for men through purpose-driven science, empowering medicines, and transformative advocacy.’ I work in the Medical Affairs Strategy Group on a new medication for advanced prostate cancer.

“Thanks to Elliot Norry for his advice to move into the pharmaceutical industry. I am looking forward to using my medical knowledge to help patients in a new and different way.

“Now that my wife, Dana, and I are empty nesters, with both our kids in college, we adopted a rescue Chocolate Lab mix. She is definitely keeping us busy. So, I have a new job and a new dog, and I am a happy man!”

Philip Steiner noted that “Tom lived at the end of the hallway on my floor at Furnald when I was a floor counselor our senior year. If memory serves, Tom only lived in Furnald during our fall semester, 1984. I believe that he’d finished all of his coursework by December and no longer needed campus housing for spring. With his quick wit and bright smile, Tom was an absolute delight to have on my floor. It would have been a pleasure to have a whole floor full of Toms! Perhaps my favorite Tom story... As ‘my kids’ (I called them this, even though we were all pretty much the same age, obviously) were moving in for the fall semester, I went door to door to introduce myself, hand out the obligatory paperwork and of course make the standard admonition to please not squirt the fire extinguishers. As Tom opened his door I couldn’t help but notice the model *Starship Enterprise* and Shatner poster. When I immediately referred to Tom as a ‘Trekker,’ he at once smiled that big broad Tom smile. Thank goodness I knew enough that to call Tom a ‘Trekkie’ would have been an unforgivable faux pas. Rest in peace, Tom.”

Heather Paxton also sent a wonderful note about Tom: “Part of Tom’s talent for friendship was finding and nurturing common ground. He was knowledgeable about so many topics.

“I don’t think I met Tom while we were at Columbia. We sat together at a dinner at V&T during the 2015 reunion. Beginning with Dorothy Parker, when I was about 11, I’ve been fascinated by the people who wrote for *The New Yorker* in its early years. I don’t generally use this as a conversational gambit — most people don’t know or care about it. Tom and I got on the subject. I was surprised he was so interested in Wolcott Gibbs. At the time, I already owned a book about Gibbs, but I didn’t realize Tom had written it

(*Backward Ran Sentences: The Best of Wolcott Gibbs* from *The New Yorker*; his second book on *The New Yorker* was yet to be published.)

“Tom could have told me in great detail about *Star Trek* or James Bond movies, but that wouldn’t have meant much to me. Somehow, he homed in on our mutual interest. Reading the tributes that his friends have written on Facebook, I see that many of us have had the same experience.

“I never saw him again in person after the 2015 reunion. Our phone conversations, sporadic since then, increased in recent months. I last talked with him two days before his death. At the time, we were both envisioning what our lives might be like in the aftermath of the pandemic. That was only a fragment of a call that lasted an hour and a half.

“During our talks, Tom taught me about the Philolexian Society. He also reminded me that November 13 is ‘Odd Couple Day,’ (when Felix Unger was asked to remove himself from his place of residence), to be celebrated by anyone who loved the TV show. Tom shared a lot of stories about his life and his family. In addition, he talked about the house in Garden City, N.Y. He had grown up there, and it remained his home.

“Tom loved Columbia, where he had earned three degrees. He had stayed involved with Columbia to a greater extent than most alums, both by reviving Philo and by working for *CCT* for many years. (I love Columbia, too, but in a way that preserves and sets apart the years when I was there. For Tom, Columbia was an ongoing part of his life.)

“Tom’s death came as a shock to me. In the days that followed, I was sad to think that I wouldn’t see Tom again the next time I’m in New York. (That’s assuming that I will be back. Nothing is guaranteed in this life.) More startling was the realization that much of what I envisioned us doing — meeting for coffee or cocktails, deciding to go somewhere for lunch or dinner, sharing a cab, perhaps seeing a show or a movie — were all things we had never done together. If this is how I felt, given how little time I spent with Tom, I can only begin to imagine the grief felt by people who were closer to him.”

Kudos to Beth Knobel BC’84, who coordinated and hosted a beautiful memorial Zoom in Tom’s memory. More than 150 attended,

with many friends (including so many Columbians) sharing great stories of unforgettable times and memories. Their recollections were comparable to Heather's, and clearly reinforced that the wonderful words in his obituaries could not capture: his passion for writing, his unique personality, his sense of humor, his ability to "tell it as he saw it," and his ability to have friends throughout multiple decades. He would often call out good wishes to classmates as "you Old Lion." At the end of the day, he was the ultimate "Old Lion."

1986

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We have an interesting first-time update from **David Green**. I find it inspiring, given that he's working with a 57-year-old body, just like the rest of us. "I'll run across the United States starting on March 22 by leaving my house in Jacksonville Beach, Fla., touching the ocean and heading west to my son in Mill Valley, Calif., and touching the Pacific at Stinson Beach 3,500 miles later. I hope to average an ultra-marathon a day, or 32-33 miles. My stepson will crew me for the three-month trip, and a stray dog named Lucky that adopted me on a run in Brazil will be my pacer. I refer to this as RAAm 2021, or Running Across America. My sons refer to this as 'Project Forrest Gump.'"

"I married Monica, a Brazilian woman from Rio de Janeiro, 28 years ago. I met her on vacation in Rio in 1992. She was a pediatrician finishing residency at the time. I went home after meeting her and sent her a ticket to visit me in NYC. She took me up on it, and the rest is history. We had one son together and inherited one from her prior marriage, so raised two boys in Jacksonville Beach, Fla., after moving here from New York in 2003. Our son Gabriel (26) works in San Francisco and lives in Mill Valley, and Alex (33) lives/works in Jacksonville.

"**Dov Goldman** and I started a software development shop in our dorm rooms and from there have been serial entrepreneurs — winning some, losing some! Consider myself 'kind of retired,' and am on various boards and always looking for ways to stay young.

"Got into ultra-running in 2011 and fell in love with the connection to nature, the lifestyle and the community. And, since whatever I do I go overboard, according to Monica, I have competed in 35-plus ultra-marathons since 2011, including Badwater 135, which is held in Death Valley in July, where temps get to 120-plus degrees, Marathon de Sables in the Sahara Desert and many other fun ones. Last few years I have been working on longer challenges such as the 500k-plus Caminho da Fe in Brazil (modeled after the famous Caminho de Santiago in Europe), where Lucky adopted me, and have since done two more times, including in January 2020, where we extended to 450 miles right before Covid. Good thing about having kids early is they are out early so my wife and I have plenty of time to travel and look for adventures. Folks I work with understand that when I attend meetings, there is a good chance I will be running while we meet!"

If you're interested in tracking David's progress in his run across America, visit davidgreen.run, where you'll find his blog, a route map, estimated arrival dates and locations, and his progress.

Mitch Earleywine updated us: "My oldest daughter, Dahlia, is a sophomore at USC. My youngest daughter, Maya, is looking to dive for one college or another. I'm a professor in the psych department at SUNY Albany. Never one to miss a trend in the world of drug research, I published a paper on psychedelic-assisted therapy for depression. In these times, well, we should all keep open minds."

Share your news with me via email, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

1987

Sarah A. Kass
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I have the great privilege this issue of passing along updates from some wonderful classmates we have not heard from in some time, as well as some old familiar friends. If there are any positives to come out of this terrible period we have been living through it has been the opportunity

to connect and reconnect with old friends. That has been a great blessing that I hope will continue.

Ara Kouchakdjian wrote: "As Covid-19 hit, the divisions of Stanley Black & Decker, where I run Strategy and Product (the Healthcare and Access Technologies Divisions), focused on providing solutions that would help during the pandemic. We released a number of products for pop-up hospitals, to manage ventilators and so on. These helped during the initial expansion of healthcare resources last spring. Subsequently, we embarked on solutions that would help in the recovery. This included an award-winning proximity management and contact tracing solution to help workers learn how to safely go back to manufacturing plants, temperature monitoring solutions to manage vaccines in transport and in facilities, and touchless doors to make people feel safer in public places. Through all the tension and challenges of keeping loved ones safe, it was gratifying to know we were helping thousands and thousands of people."

Tim Kennelly lives in Culver City, Calif., and is the chief projectionist at the Television Academy Saban Media Center in North Hollywood. He said, "One of the perks of the job is attending the Primetime Emmys every year (every non-pandemic year)! I've passed the last year in (thankfully) good health by surfing or by riding my bike 10 miles each day."

Diane Hilal-Campo PS'91 writes: "This has been a crazy year for physicians. I am an ophthalmologist in Bergen County, N.J. Our offices and operating rooms for elective eye surgery were closed for three months, and we were on standby with the hospital and state, ready to help if needed, and watching videos on vent settings. In June we had to learn how to reopen to keep patients and staff safe. We changed protocols, and procured PPE for staff, which was not an easy task.

"I defused the stress by working on a passion project, creating an eye makeup line. After years of treating patients with serious damage to their eyes from complications related to their cosmetics, I created a line of beautifully formulated eye makeup products that are not just safe for eyes, but also are beneficial for eyes! The trademarked name of my line is

Twenty/Twenty Beauty. My slogan is: 'Try twenty/twenty and feel and see the difference. Healthy eyes are beautiful eyes.'

"This line is the first ophthalmologist-produced eye makeup line. The ingredients have been carefully chosen and will not irritate or cause damage to the ocular surface, and is full of hydrating ingredients to make eyes feel more comfortable. It is safe for contact lens wearers, and for those with dry eyes.

"Alumni who would like to try it can go to trytwentytwenty.com and put in code 'ColumbiaAlumni' for 20 percent off.

"For me, this makeup line has truly been the silver lining of this crazy year."

Eve Cohen sent in this update: "I'm happily ensconced in Denver with my husband, Keith Porter, a professor at Colorado University, Boulder, and my two teenage kids. I work for my husband's company, run several social activism groups and also do the occasional acting gig. I'm delighted to announce that my older daughter, Althea Cohen-Porter, will join the Class of 2025 as a third-generation Columbian! I'm so excited for her to forge her own unique relationship with New York, the Morningside campus and the Core Curriculum, and I know that her grandfather Richard Cohen '57, who passed away two years ago, would be as proud of her as I am. Now I have the perfect excuse to visit New York on a regular basis just as things are (I hope) opening up. I hope everyone is well and made it through this last year relatively unscathed."

Thank you, Eve, not only for sending us this update, but also for informing me that you are part of the select group of CC'87 women whose fathers are CC'57! I only knew of **Ilene Weinstein** and me. Always room for one more! Or more if we've left anyone out — please write me.

Paul Kim co-chairs the Columbia College Parent Leadership Council. He said, "If any alumni would like to learn more about the Columbia College Parents Fund or Parent Leadership Council, or would simply like to engage in a conversation regarding the challenges faced by college-age children, they are welcome to reach out to me."

Sharon Block recently left her position as executive director of the Labor and Worklife Program at Har-



vard Law School to join the Biden administration. Sharon had worked for the U.S. Department of Labor and was a member of the National Labor Relations Board under President Barack Obama '83. "I'm back in D.C. and enjoying reconnecting with friends and family," Sharon says. "What started as a short distance between Cambridge and D.C. when I left D.C. four years ago felt much longer during the pandemic."

I received this from **Paul Barsky**: "A crazy year indeed! After many years as a teacher and administrator in independent schools in New York City, San Diego and Los Angeles, during the past year, I have enrolled full-time at San Francisco Theological Seminary. I am working on completing an M.A. in theology and am proudly the only Jewish seminarian that I know of. I love the program and being back in class! Not sure where this will take me but did we ever think we would be where we are right now?"

Macky Alston is co-directing a documentary about grassroots reparations initiatives across the country that should be out in 2022. He is eager to speak with anyone who has curiosity or knowledge on the topic. Email me and I will put you in touch.

And last but certainly not least, my dear friend **Judy Kim** will spend this summer in Newport, R.I. She reconnected there with Tim Tash '88, who lives a 15-minute walk from her house! Judy writes: "I also recently met up with **Frank Brown** in Arlington, Va.; **Jill Levey** '88 in Highland Park, N.J.; and **Carol Salt** in Manhattan — all on the same day as I drove north from Florida, where I spent the winter. **Dawn Santana Moore** and **Gus Moore** came to Palm Beach recently to have dinner together on Worth Avenue. The pandemic has allowed me to work remotely for the past 12 months in wonderful locations, and I am looking forward to meeting up with any fellow Lions planning to visit Newport this summer."

1988

Eric Fusfield
eric@fusfield.com

David Patchefsky is continuing in the robust tradition of '88 alums who work in emergency medicine.

"I've been a practicing emergency medicine physician in Philadelphia for about 25 years," David writes. "For obvious reasons, the pandemic made 2020 the most stressful year yet. I greatly appreciate all of the heartfelt well wishes and support extended from my Columbia classmates during this difficult time."

Many thanks to David and our other physician classmates who are staffing hospitals and saving lives in hazardous times.

"After a richly rewarding 25-year career with Gallup," **Todd Johnson** BUS'96 left "mid-Covid-19 ... and stayed retired for 17 days." He promptly stepped into the role of senior VP for economic development at the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce. "I have worked for the award-winning Omaha Chamber for 30-plus years, so it is great to finally have an email address and office," Todd writes. "My passion for all things 'Omaha' makes this the perfect next step on the proverbial journey. If and when anyone gets to Omaha (College World Series, Olympic swim trials, etc.) I would enjoy the chance to welcome you and show you around, but go knowing that I will encourage you, your families and your businesses to relocate to Omaha! Topophilia is a real thing."

Claudia Kraut is "happy to report that I'm the mother of a Columbia College graduate, and **Diane J. Orlinsky** will attend that same CC'21 son's wedding in August. I've begun a job with an Israeli-based digital therapeutics firm, **DarioHealth**, where I'm VP of partnerships. Diane and I stay in touch with **Laurence Holzman** in New York, **Amy Friedman** in the Bay Area and **Jonny Roskes** in Hong Kong; Covid oddly made that easier, as we discovered we could Zoom instead of trying to gather from all around the world.

"I've also enthusiastically embraced my weird and surprising role as a social media influencer. When Covid hit, I started to post videos from my daily trail runs onto LinkedIn," Claudia continues. "These 'Ten Second Meditations' became a sensation and launched a hashtag, #tsm. Classmates are welcome to seek me out and view them, too. I hope they help!"

Grandparent updates have become my favorite addition to this column; they're coming with

greater frequency now. **Matthew Herenstein** is the second former Carman Hall Mezzanine floormate of mine to join the club, as his son and daughter-in-law welcomed a girl in March.

Mazel tov to the parents and grandparents.

Two College alums who were not members of our class but nevertheless were recognizable to many of us passed away this year. **George Segal** '55 spoke and played banjo at our Class Day before going on to star in two sitcoms and receiving a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame four years ago.

Former *Spectator* staffer **Thomas Vinciguerra** '85, JRN'86, GSAS '90 was familiar to many of us as a freelance writer whose work often appeared in *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal* and was a ubiquitous figure on the Columbia alumni circuit. I reconnected with him when he called me about an article he was writing about **Neil Gorsuch** when Neil was nominated to the Supreme Court. Tom sadly passed away on February 22, 2021, after a yearlong illness. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

Let's keep using this column as a town hall to check in with each other as we weather the pandemic. Updates big and small are equally welcome. As **Todd Johnson** emailed, "Stay positive and test negative."

Send news to me via email, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

1989

Emily Miles Terry
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[Editor's note: This issue's guest columnist is **Cristina Benedetto**.]

Hi all, I am overwhelmed by the amazing response I got from you for my first issue as guest class correspondent. So many of you responded to the call, and for that I am truly grateful!

At the time of this writing, **Tim Kelly** was running for mayor in his hometown of Chattanooga. Wishing him the best of luck! You can follow him at kellyforcha.com.

Stephanos Bibas is a judge on the federal appeals court in Philadelphia. He is teaching part-time at Penn Law School as well as serving

as a deacon in his church. **Stephanos** is also beginning his third book, *Criminal Justice by the People*. He and his wife have four school-age kids and have somehow weathered Covid-19, lockdowns, riots and the involuntary homeschooling experiment of 2020. He would love to see or hear from any classmates in the greater Philly area.

Andrea Chipman has been living in Nottingham, England, with her British husband, Jonathan, for nearly 17 years. Their sons are 13 and 15. Andrea is a self-employed health journalist, currently editing a new magazine on non-communicable diseases, as well as doing reports for the Economist Intelligence Unit.

Contributing for the first time, **Michael Riedel** writes that after covering theater for 25 years, first at the *New York Daily News* and then the *New York Post*, in 2019 he left for radio. He is co-host of *Len Berman and Michael Riedel in the Morning*, New York's highest rated talk radio morning show, on 710 AM / WOR. Michael hasn't left Broadway, however. His *New York Times* best-selling book *Razzle Dazzle: The Battle for Broadway* won the Marfield Prize for arts writing in 2015. His second book, *Singular Sensation: The Triumph of Broadway*, was published to rave reviews in November 2020. Both are under option for television series. Michael continues to write about the theater for the *Post*, *Vanity Fair*, *New York* magazine and *The Wall Street Journal*.

My old friend and fellow Carman 12 buddy **Shauna Bryant McIntosh** writes that she lives in Delaware and is raising three children (21, 17 and 14). She is in her 23rd year of practice as an ob/gyn and is president of her local chapter of the National Medical Association. Shauna is still involved with CC, doing interviews with the Alumni Representative Committee.

Mark Zoland is a surgeon in private practice in New York. He specializes in groin pain, sports hernias and hernias. Mark consults for the NFL, NHL, MLB, MLS and other professional teams, both male and female. He also has an interest in "occult hernias," which can be a source of pelvic pain in women, and sometimes men. Mark recently published *Deciphering Groin and Pelvic Pain: The interplay between sports hernia, athletic pubalgia, and*

pelvic floor dysfunction, a text for both professionals and the lay public alike. He lives in Westchester with his wife, three sons, two dogs and many fish.

Hoyt Glazer started a law practice (Glazer Saad Anderson) last October that focuses on employment and civil rights law. He also teaches an employment law class at Marshall University in Huntington, W.Va. In his spare time, Hoyt enjoys spending time with his wife, Melanie, and teenagers, Seth and Lydia.

Dan Brodnitz moved to the San Francisco Bay Area shortly after graduation. He and his wife have two kids, both in their early 20s. Work-wise, Dan heads up the content strategy team at LinkedIn Learning. And he recently wrote and published a book called *The Lavender Lemonade Is Back* and published a book of poems by **George Guida**, *The Zen of Pop*. In a pandemic world, Dan is more in touch with CC pals via Facebook than in normal times, and he credits many of them both with ongoing excellent music suggestions and with helping him ride out the 2020 election cycle.

Samantha Jacobs Jouin lives in Chester County, Pa., outside of Philly, and works in the pharmaceutical business of Johnson & Johnson on product launches and strategic projects in the oncology business. She spent the first 10 years after graduation living in France, where she married a Frenchman and went to business school, before moving the family back to the United States. She has two college-age kids, one

of whom recently graduated from Barnard, so she loves hearing about what campus and Morningside Heights are like these days, both pre-Covid and now, when it is not quite as fun to be a student in NYC. Samantha is on the local school board and is getting ready to run for reelection this year.

Anthony Fusco lives in Hamilton, Mass., with his wife, Kathleen. His older daughter, Gabrielle, works in New York City for the medical device company Intellijoint Surgical. His son, Nicholas, is on the operations side of the business with CIBC and has been living at home since the start of the pandemic. His youngest, Olivia, has special needs and will finish the residential program at the Latham Centers in Brewster, Mass., in the fall. Anthony practices law with a small firm north of Boston, Glovsky & Glovsky, and does estate planning, probate and trust administration. He sends his best wishes to everyone in the Class of 1989 with a special shoutout to **Terry Brown, Tony Chiles, Rich Ray, Galen Sorrells, Mike Seidewand, Walter Haynie '90** and the rest of the crew.

Jared Goldstein wants folks to know about the Facebook group "Columbia University Class of 1989 Undergraduates." It is for anyone who is us or who loves or cares about us. The repartee has been respectful, and sometimes intellectual or irreverent. If anyone has a problem joining, contact Jared: facebook.com/JaredBGGoldstein.

After 29 years with the NYC Department of Education, **Brian O'Connell** took the helm as headmaster of Lawrence Woodmere Academy (LWA), a uniquely diverse independent school in Woodmere, N.Y. Brian overhauled the entire academic program, emphasizing the school's A+STEM Identity (a premier standalone arts program and STEM), and adding Mandarin as a world language in addition to Spanish. Upper school students can take college courses that enable them to earn college credits via a St. Francis College dual enrollment partnership. Transitioning from public to private school, Brian says, has afforded him the ability to see the need for mechanisms and models that give all parents educational options (choice) for their children, whether they are inter- or intra-public school systems.

If any Columbia alums have ideas or resources to increase equity of opportunities for children, even if simply by directly helping Brian make LWA more accessible to more students, please email him at either boconnell@lawrencewoodmere.org or principalboc@gmail.com.

Chris Lorentz writes: "I earned a Ph.D. from Kent in ecology and evolutionary biology. From there, I became a professor of biological sciences at Thomas More University, a small, private liberal arts school, just outside of Cincinnati, in Northern Kentucky. Finishing up my 27th year here. I am the director of our Environmental Science Program and Biology Field Station. Recently I was elected president of the Organization of Biological Field Stations, an international organization with more than 230 member stations spread across 20 countries on six continents. Our mission is to support related research, education and public understanding of environmental issues."

Mimi D'Orazio teaches AP physics and chemistry in Santa Cruz. While she doesn't practice architecture full-time anymore, she says she still enjoys jobs here and there. Recently, she finished her new high school and middle school campus buildings design, and a beer garden (not for the school) complete with babbling brook, landscaped hideaways, and of course, the requisite drunken cornhole area, which I located near the river.

Rob Laplace and I, as well as **Jen Fudge Ryan** and **Patrick Ryan SEAS'89**, had the pleasure of seeing our kids, Caroline and James respectively, graduate from Columbia this April. Graduation wasn't the same, as it was virtual, but we are all proud of our kids nonetheless. A big lion ROAR to Caroline and James!

Last, I wanted to give a shoutout to **Matt Engels, Josh Krevitt, Danielle Maged** and **Jason Carter**, who all wrote in just to say hello.

1990

Rachel Cowan Jacobs
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Sigh, we're a year-plus into the global pandemic as I write this in mid-March. I stole a response from someone to use when asked how I

am: "I'm Covid good." I hope you are, too. But things are looking up for people in various ways, including those of us lucky enough to have been vaccinated. For example, **Warigia M. Bowman** was promoted in November to associate professor of law at the University of Tulsa College of Law. She is a member of a multi-university team that received a \$20 million National Science Foundation Grant on water, infrastructure and energy in Oklahoma. Warigia's 15-year-old daughter is a Girl Scout in Troop 1510, led by former Furnald Grocery staffer Jeff Mosburg '89.

Isaac-Daniel Astrachan proudly reports that "son Aidhan committed to Occidental College for soccer in September and received formal acceptance in December. He was only looking at small liberal arts colleges in Southern California. The entire family is very happy and can't wait to spend some time on the West Coast (especially during soccer season). Back on the East Coast, I commissioned photographer extraordinaire **Christopher Payne** to document the manufacturing of one of our affordable wood modular projects in the factory in Pennsylvania. The photos are fantastic!"

Check out sbjgroup.com for some photos of Christopher's work.

Did you catch **Nancy Pak BUS'95**, co-starring in the Columbia College Alumni Association's March AlumniTALK, "Alumnae Trailblazers on Taking Risks that Pay Off"?

Way to go, Nancy!

I welcome news and updates from each and every one of you. Maybe you accomplished something during the 12-plus months of the global pandemic. That's worth writing me a note! Maybe you have a happy story to share. That's worth dropping me a line. I'll start us off. In July I donated 12 inches of hair to Locks of Love. From the looks of what's grown back, I'll probably be able to do this again in another 18 months. With that, I conclude this column and hope to hear from you soon.

1991

Heather E.G. Brownlie
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Heather E.G. Brownlie wishes the Class of 1991 a belated happy 30th

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reunion celebration and says, "Thank you to everyone who provided updates! Keep sending in your notes. It is so great to hear what is going on with everyone from our class! Cheers to 30 years!"

Dr. Jennifer Ashton PS'00, HN'16 reports in: "As the ABC News chief medical correspondent, I have been immersed in all things Covid-19 since January 2020, traveling to the White House and the NIH Vaccine Research Center, and talking to Dr. Anthony Fauci and the heads of the CDC and FDA on a regular basis. Covering the biggest medical story of our lifetime has been intellectually rewarding but also emotionally stressful. It has reinforced the importance of effective communication in medicine, science and public health at a time when people are scared, confused and cynical. After hearing from viewers and my patients alike that there was a great interest in learning how to interpret this rapidly changing scientific landscape, I wrote *The New Normal: A Roadmap to Resilience in the Pandemic Era*. In it, I teach people how to think like a doctor so as to avoid medical headline whiplash and resume living amidst these challenging times.

"I have a son, Alex Ashton '20, and a daughter, Chloe, who is a student at another Ivy League school in Boston. I started a pandemic hobby of raising backyard chickens at my farm in Connecticut."

Daniel Balsam sent in his latest update: "I was deeply engaged of late producing an extraordinary visual arts encounter of the Mauritshuis Royal Picture Gallery in The Hague on behalf of the Columbia University Club of Chicago (CUCC) for Columbia alumni and faculty worldwide. The event took place on March 14; 59 alumni and one current faculty member attended. This was second in a series of Visual Arts Showcase events that I have produced on behalf of CUCC and the Columbia Alumni Association. As I write I am cooking up my third event, for May or June, and will publish the event notice on the Columbia Alumni Association global calendar (alumni.columbia.edu/content/alumni-events-around-world) and the Columbia College Alumni Association calendar (college.columbia.edu/alumni/events)."

Elise Scheck Bonwitt shared her news: "I just published my first book,

MORE: Get More Out of Life with Less Complication (getmorewithless.com). In lieu of an in-person launch, I have been speaking to groups around the country via Zoom. I also do leadership development programs for nonprofit leaders via the website simpact.it."

Elise is an attorney/mediator and lives in Miami.

Mark Bures checked in from back in the U.S.A.: "After living in Rio de Janeiro for approximately 20 years, I moved back to Southern California in late 2018 with my wife and our two daughters. We live in Hermosa Beach, Calif."

Dr. Marc Eisenberg PS'95 checked in: "I'm a cardiologist at Columbia University Medical Center/NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital and co-host of the podcast *Am I Dying?* I started Doctors for a Hunger Free America, which is trying to enact legislation for universal free breakfasts and lunches in all public schools to combat the number of children who go to bed hungry in our country. Everyone feel free to join."

Kris Fresonke is with the State Department, and is posted to Jerusalem to work on Palestinian affairs. Her husband, Richard Major, published two novels (indiebooks.squarespace.com/fiction).

In 2020, **Rachel Galanter** completed an Ian Axford (New Zealand) Fellowship with Oranga Tamariki, New Zealand's Ministry for Children. She returned to Durham, N.C., for her 20th year at Exchange Family Center, where she makes children's lives better by strengthening their families, teachers and communities with proven counseling, coaching and training.

John Griffin and his wife, Gretchen McNeil, welcomed a baby in the middle of this crazy pandemic. Katherine Carmela Griffin was born on May 27, 2020, joining her brother, John Flynn Griffin, who was born on September 24, 2018.

Daniel Henkin writes: "My son, Sammy '25, will be a first-year this fall."

Elizabeth Harrison Kubany writes: "Somehow, even as we've been stuck at home for the past 11 months, it has been an eventful year. I rebranded and relaunched my business — KUBANY — a public relations agency specializing in architecture, design and art. My husband and I are also in the process

of expanding the art gallery we run together, Winterhouse Projects. Our eldest is taking a year off from school and is interning at the Center for an Urban Future. Our middle child was just accepted at Lafayette, which was her first choice. And our little one has been in school in person for all of sixth grade, which has been a godsend. I was looking forward to seeing everyone at reunion, even if it is only virtual, and to being together in person again before too long."

Tamara Loeber (formerly Heather Tamara Close) writes: "After 15-plus years of a nomadic lifestyle, I have finally stopped moving! It took a global pandemic to do it, but it has been an interestingly positive shift. Living on the road managing experiential marketing tours for clients like HBO, Dole, Boston Beer Co., Nutella and others was mostly fun and exciting. I don't even mind hotel life a bit. And being independent afforded many, many opportunities for extended travels, both domestic (all 50 states!) and international. When both events and travel came screeching to a halt, it seemed like the world had turned upside down: no home, no car, no place to go. Southwest Florida however was calling. My husband and I bought a home in Venice, Fla., last summer and have been enjoying the beach, warm weather and a year-round garden. It all resonates well with this Cape Cod girl's soul. I am now a Licensed Realtor full time with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Realty out of the Venice office. I'm super easy to find on LinkedIn and most other social media, and I'd love to reconnect with y'all. I admittedly haven't done a good job of keeping in touch! Oh, and don't let the Tamara Loeber name confuse you. I go by my middle name instead of Heather these days, and Loeber is my married name."

Nancy López Ph.D. is professor of sociology at the University of New Mexico. She co-founded/directs the Institute for the Study of "Race" and Social Justice and is associate VP for the Division for Equity & Inclusion. Nancy was awarded a research grant from the WT Grant Foundation to examine the role of high school ethnic studies curriculum and culturally relevant pedagogy in reducing complex inter-

sectional inequalities in high school through three research practice partnerships in Albuquerque, San Francisco and Los Angeles. Nancy's oldest child is CC'24 and attended remotely from Albuquerque this past year. Nancy shared her expertise with Columbia alumni on a speaker panel this spring.

Daniel Orenstein "was flying to Utah (from Boston) a lot for work with a health tech company based in Salt Lake, so decided to spend a couple of years in Park City. I'm here with my wife, Michelle Gottlieb BC'90, and 13-year-old son. Lots of outdoor things to do here, which has been good during the pandemic! Plus I've taken up jazz guitar as a new lockdown hobby."

Chris Petrovic reports: "Since 2010, my wife, Jen, and children, daughter Remy (12) and son Zander (9), have lived just north of San Francisco in the beautiful wine country town of Sonoma. For all of the amazing experiences that small-town living afforded us, we ultimately made the difficult decision to leave California for a number of reasons, including enduring four straight years of the 'new normal' of wildfire season in our part of the state, combined with the toll that the Covid-19 restrictions took on our whole family, including my wife's local business venture as well as my kids' inability to attend school in person. In November 2020 I resigned from my amazing job at a leading video game company (Zynga) with the goal of focusing on transitioning the family to Washington State. No sooner had we started the process of relocating than another amazing job opportunity was presented to me that enabled Jen and me to realize a longtime family dream of living abroad. In mid-December we took our already-packed-up belongings and diverted them to our new home in Switzerland! We live in the greater Zurich area and are fortunate enough to have our kids in school in person (for now at least; fingers crossed it stays that way!) and be surrounded by beauty in all directions. Open invitation for anyone to visit once things open up, I hope sooner rather than later!"

David Wacks and his partner, Katharine Gallagher, have lived in Eugene, Ore., since 2003, where Katharine works for Centro Latino

Americano and David teaches Medieval Iberian literature at the University of Oregon. They have two teenagers and two cats. David would be thrilled to hear from classmates and to meet up if they are passing through town on the I5. He blogs on his current research and teaching at davidwacks.uoregon.edu and you can find him on Twitter (@davidwacks).

Susannah Wood checked in: "I am wrapping up my tour in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and will start a domestic assignment with the State Department this summer. I plan to live in Falls Church, Va., and would love to get together with any Columbians in the D.C. area once restrictions are lifted."

1992

Olivier Knox
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Classmates, welcome!

Imagine my delight upon hearing after so many years from **Dan Her-**man, with whom I shared suites on Carman 7 (he was 701B, I was 701A) and in the East Campus townhouses!

"Our Carman days were top of mind in August when my son, Otto '24, was assigned to Carman," Dan writes. "Alas, a few weeks later he was notified that first-years would not be coming to campus after all. Stuck at home for college via Zoom is a serious bummer, but he is making the best of it."

The logistics aren't easy for someone on the West Coast. Otto's 10 a.m. Lit Hum class is at 7 a.m. Los Angeles time. "I get to enjoy the occasional hot takes on Homer, Spanish grammar and micro-economics — small consolation for a year gone sideways," Dan adds.

Dan is an architect with a degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Design (1998). He is associate director in Skidmore, Owings & Merrill's L.A. office, with commercial and residential projects in and around L.A., as well as in Dallas, Atlanta and Mexico City. Dan's wife, Linda Chung (also Harvard Graduate School of Design 1998), is an architect with Gensler's L.A. studio, with a focus on higher-education buildings. "Our ninth-grader, Ingrid, plays cello in two orchestras and has also recently discovered the electric guitar," Dan writes.

Dan has come a long way from meticulously putting together a 3-D representation of "time" on our dining room table in H402 for a class at Columbia. Am I remembering that right, Dan?

Sara Hall writes, "My family and I have been weathering the pandemic with remote work and e-learning. I recently returned from a research sabbatical to be acting associate dean for student academic affairs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Illinois Chicago, where I am working on a variety of curricular and student success initiatives."

Sara also began the first year of her term as VP/president-elect of the German Studies Association, the multi-disciplinary association of scholars of German, Austrian and Swiss history, literature, cultural studies, political science and economics. "On both sides of the equation, I am fully immersed in figuring out what teaching and conferences will look like in fall," she says.

Please let us know when you know, Sara!

Steve Greenberg SEAS'93 definitely did not bury the lede in his email: "I had a baby. Third one in 16 years, and first one since 12 years ago. Actually, my wife, Isabelle (our resident French attorney), had the baby. But I am certain I played a role."

Little Jake Wolf Greenberg is named after his 19th-century third great-grandfather from the Russian Empire. "Wolf was probably a pretty cool name for a 19th-century Russian back then (technically from modern-day Central Ukraine, but let's not start a war over this)," Steve writes.

Speaking of starting a war, "While Isabelle still finds it irritating to speak French with me for the benefit of my fluency, she is happy to speak French with the baby all day," Steve adds. "At least my command of French nursery rhymes has improved. My fluency, not so much."

Steve says he reconnected with **Jean-Luc Neptune** PS'97 and enjoyed "his informative YouTube docuseries on life with the bug," that has defined the past year. And he visited with Joe Del Toro '93 last summer on the way to Maine, where Steve lives a few months out of the year. "Joe and I are blessed after all of these years to remain close and also to engage in some joint investing through his PE fund, Argand Partners," Steve writes.



Jamie Vinci '92 (left) and Jason Hagberg '92 at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in Indio, Calif., in 2006. Hagberg died on March 3, 2021.

GABE BENVENUTI

Just before seeing Joe, Steve got to show Columbia to his eldest son, Michael (16). "He was not fond of the 'smell,' but I think he was impressed with the campus," Steve adds. "I guess we'll see where that all shakes out in the next year or so."

Now for one of the hardest items I've ever had to write as your class correspondent.

If you moved into a Carman 7 suite in fall 1988, he was impossible to miss: the big guy with the beaming smile and the booming laugh. Inquisitive, thoughtful, and just so %\$#@ fun to hang around.

I'm sorry to report that the world is a dumber and sadder place: We lost **Jason Hagberg** on March 3, 2021.

Jason earned a B.A. in political science and then a 2002 J.D. in intellectual property law from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law Yeshiva University. He had recently signed on as data protection program manager for The Estée Lauder Companies.

"He passed at his home in Lakewood, N.Y., leaving behind a multitude of friends from all walks of life," Jason's mother, Catherine Hagberg wrote. "An alpha among alphas and a gentle giant, one of his ongoing interests was to help young Black men achieve the goal of attending Columbia University."

"Under the banner of Jason's Journey there will be developments toward expanding opportunities for persons of color who need a mentor to help navigate the road to personal and professional success," she said. "Jason was a very proud graduate of Columbia who hoped he could help others feel the same sense of pride and accomplishment, due in great part to the support from other alums."

Jason was a member of the International Association of Privacy Professionals; the Section of Intellectual Property Law - American Bar Association; National Black Law Students Association; Electronic Frontier Foundation; West Coast Skiers and the Foreign Correspondents Club of Hong Kong.

"His particular likes included movies, music, cooking and Chautauqua Lake," added Catherine. "He characterized himself as a cranky brown Swede."

May his memory be a blessing.

1993

Neil Turitz
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[Editor's note: CCT thanks **Betsy Gomperz** for her many years of service as class correspondent. Her last column follows. As of the Fall 2021 issue, the class correspondent will be **Neil Turitz**. You can email him at lovematza@aol.com, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.]

Greetings, classmates. It is the first day of spring and on the East Coast it was a gorgeous day (and for those skiing the East, it was perfect spring skiing weather!). There wasn't much to report in the Winter 2020–21 issue, but after a Facebook plea, I am so grateful to those of you who provided updates — thank you for sharing!

We have a number of authors who have been quite busy over the last year. **Brad Stone** reports that his fourth book, *Amazon Unbound*, was published in May. It is a sequel to his bestseller *The Everything Store*



and continues Brad's chronicle of Jeff Bezos, the richest person in the world, and the company many of us have come to rely on during the pandemic. Brad also runs the technology coverage at Bloomberg News. He lives with his wife and three daughters in Marin County, north of San Francisco.

Paul Sangillo writes that he and Stephanie Pitsirilos PH'02 were part of a panel discussion hosted by the Latino Alumni Association of Columbia University (organized by president Elisa Charters SIPA'01), the Alumni Society and the Columbia University Alumni Club of New Jersey. Paul and Stephanie discussed their books (Paul authored *The Golden Prison* and Stephanie authored *Latinx Anthology: Speculative Fiction for Dreamers*) and how to become an author.

At our 2018 reunion, many of you may recall reconnecting with Jeff Sweat '95, who started in our class. Jeff lives in Los Angeles and recently released his second novel, *Scorpion*, a sequel to *MayFly*. *Scorpion* is the post-apocalyptic story of a world where no one lives past 17. When sharing his update with me in late January, Jeff mentioned he had just tested positive for Covid-19, which was the start of a long, remarkable battle that he and his wife, Sunny, chronicled on Facebook over six-plus weeks. Fortunately, Jeff is now home with his family!

Grissel Seijo writes that she was selected for the Hispanic National Bar Association's prestigious Poder25, a program designed to increase diversity to general counsels in publicly traded organizations by 2025. Grissel is counsel, employment, diversity and inclusion, U.S. and international, at Restaurant Brands International, which is the franchisor for Burger King, Popeyes and Tim Hortons.

Congratulations, Grissel!

Rita Pietropinto-Kitt writes: "We weathered the last year standing strong, living through the pandemic in our beloved NYC. With Broadway shut down and performing arts canceled around the world it has been a very challenging time. But we have done what we can to still keep the arts alive. Tom Kitt '96 and I helped start the nonprofit NYC Next, led by superwoman Maryam Banikarim BC'89, and held the first pop up concert in Times Square last fall, bringing together Broadway art-

ists for a special rendition of *Sunday in The Park with George*.

"I've been working as a board member for the Lilly Awards, promoting equity in the theater and education initiatives. I ran my performing arts camp in a virtual platform last summer, harnessing the talents of our Broadway community to workshop with our campers. And this year I am trying to keep arts education alive any way we can at Marymount — dancing outside, singing on Zoom, acting in mask; whatever we can do as we wait for Broadway to light the stages again. I'm also a member of the Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors as VP, state of the College, mostly focusing on students — who have been incredible as they pivoted to a remote platform — and trying to find new avenues to help support their journey.

"As I write, it is Grammy night, and Tom won the Grammy for the *Jagged Little Pill* Best Musical Theater album. So we are in pajamas rather than a gown and a tuxedo, drinking champagne, deeply grateful for every little moment of celebration for the theater arts community and yearning for the day we can all be in the room together making art again. Until then we are proud of our three children, who have been so resilient this year, deeply grateful for health and so appreciative to everyone who has kept the heart of NYC beating strong."

Finally, I was thrilled to hear from Carman 11 floormate **Joe Calcagno**: "I am married (beautiful wife, Julie) and have four kids. They are all good kids as far as I know. Put on a couple pounds since 1993 but I still have all my hair. I'm looking forward to the 30th reunion!"

Thank you to all who submitted updates!

1994

Leyla Kokmen
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No news to share this issue, but I and your classmates would love to hear what's happening in your life. Please write to me via email, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note, and I'll share your news in a future issue. Hope you have a happy and safe summer!

1995

Janet Lorin
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I hope this finds everyone well and vaccinated.

I didn't have a column in the Winter 2020–21 issue, one of a handful of times since we graduated 26 years ago. My mother passed away of pancreatic cancer, on Yom Kippur, in Chicago, and of course Covid-19 made everything more difficult. I thought about the many times she visited me at Columbia, starting with move-in to Carman 10 and ending with the day of our sunny Class Day.

Thanks to **Grant Dawson** for sharing an update. I met Grant when we were RAs together in Wien. He went to law school at Georgetown and is the legal advisor (acting) at the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, often called the "Chemical Weapons Watchdog," at The Hague. As general counsel for OPCW, Grant provides a full range of legal services to support its efforts to verify the destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles in an environmentally sound manner and ensure that they never reemerge.

Grant is also working toward a Ph.D. in law at the University of Groningen on international environmental law and will soon publish a sequel to his 2012 book on forcible displacement dealing with environmental displacement. He's been at The Hague, working for OPCW and the UN, since 2003.

After fighting Covid in New York, **Demetre Daskalakis** moved to Atlanta to fight HIV. He is now the CDC's director of the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention in the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention.

Please don't be shy about sending in updates via email, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

1996

Ana Salper
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Dear classmates, happy summer! I am writing these notes a few months before our 25th reunion, but by the time this is published, we will

have all, I hope, "seen" each other at some of the Class of 1996 virtual events! And to those who attended, you know I will be hounding you for notes to include in the Fall 2021 issue (apologies in advance)!

For now, I can report that I was very happy to hear from **Dalina Sumner**, who is in tax litigation at McConnell Valdés, a firm in Puerto Rico where she has worked since 2009. Dalina writes that she has been lucky to spend this last year in quarantine in PR, where the weather is always warm and she can visit any number of beautiful beaches when she needs to get out of the house. At home she has been growing her first vegetable garden and doing organization projects (some more successful than others). During the past year Dalina has had several Zoom happy hours with **Cecilia Cabello**, **Cesar Chavez**, **Daniel Cole** and **Florencia Russ '98**. Dalina writes: "These happy hours are always a blast, and it's been a highlight of the last year for me, as we all live far away from each other. Right now, I'm focusing on being patient as I wait for my turn to get vaccinated and start the process of returning to a 'normal' life." Dalina is also in touch with **Matt Lasner** and **Bekah Burgess** (her first-year roommate at Columbia, who has remained a dear friend all these years).

It was also great to hear from **Genevieve "Gen" Connors**, who joined the World Bank in 2006. She relocated to Washington, D.C., in summer 2017, after 10 years in the India country office leading water programs. Gen now manages one of the largest units in the Climate Change Group, setting the strategic directions for and reporting on climate change strategy for the organization globally. She has a son, Theo (9), who, while blessed with good health, is struggling after a full year of home-based school with no return in sight for D.C. public schools. Gen shared that she is lucky to be in close contact with **Kay Park**, **Biella Coleman** and **Johanna Silkowski BC'98**, whom she sees on Zoom from time to time, and **Alisa Tang**, who is also based in Washington, D.C., and whom she sees outside in a mask on occasion. Gen writes that as a die-hard New Yorker, she goes back to the Upper West Side to see family and hit the pavement, and is somewhat mortified that her son calls all apartment buildings "hotels."

Hussein Rashid writes that his first co-edited volume is out in the world. *Ms. Marvel's America: No Normal* is about Marvel Comics' first Muslim superhero to headline a series. Hussein says that while it is written for academic use, it is really approachable for fans.

That's all I have for now. Enjoy this beautiful weather and stay safe, everyone! Share your news with me via email, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

I leave you with this:

"Hope is the thing with feathers
that perches in the soul — and sings
the tunes without the words — and
never stops at all."
— Emily Dickinson

1997

Kerensa Harrell
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Dear classmates, I hope that you all had a pleasant winter and spring and that everyone is in good health. It is now my pleasure to present the following updates from our classmates. Actually, all of them were generously given to me by **Nick Syrett**, who in our college days was in my Contemporary Civilization class, which was taught by the very well-liked and always bubbly Professor Susan Schapiro!

Nick Syrett writes: "After 11 years living in Denver or San Francisco (four of those years commuting weekly between the two), in 2017 I moved to Lawrence, Kan., where

I am a professor of women, gender and sexuality studies at the University of Kansas. I'm writing my fourth book, a biography of 19th-century New York's most famous abortionist, Madame Restell. I live in an old, rambling house with my partner, Michael, and our dog, Sadie Louise Poppleton Pahr-Syrett, who occasionally posts on Facebook about her life in the heartland, which, it turns out, is not so bad."

Nick also shares with us the following updates on other alumni with whom he keeps up:

In summer 2007 with little more than a candy-colored Apple iBook and a karaoke microphone, **Tom Meyers** created the Bowery Boys NYC History Podcast with his friend Greg Young. Since then, they've released more than 350 episodes covering all aspects of New York's history, including "Madame Restell: The Abortionist of 5th Avenue," with guest **Nick Syrett**. Tom and Greg authored a book, *The Bowery Boys Adventures in Old New York* (2016), and perform regularly at venues throughout the city. In his pre-podcast life, Tom ran a budget travel website, eurocheapo.com, which he launched while living in Berlin in 2001 (frolicking with Emily Ford '99 and **Mauricio Mena**). Tom lives in Maplewood, N.J., with his husband, Guillaume, two children, cat and beagle.

Sarah Wheeler (née McConnell) lives in the Hudson River Valley at the end of a bougie cul-de-sac, searching for *le mot juste* and reenacting Proust's cookie-induced memory flood whenever possible. She teaches high school English, mucks donkey and draft horse stalls, and loves her husband, two kids and pets with passion if not panache.

Genevieve "Jane" Stewart works on energy management/climate action for a university in small-town Virginia, where she lives with her three kids (one of whom just graduated from college herself), a pretty great beagle and her husband, with whom she celebrated her 22nd wedding anniversary in January. She sends best wishes to all!

Erik Flatmo moved from San Francisco to Milan, Italy, in fall 2019 to work on theatrical design projects at theaters and museums in Europe and Russia. Prior, he taught set design at Stanford for 15 years. Currently he is doing freelance

design work at a fashion production studio in Milan. He will join the faculty of Accademia dell'Arte in Arezzo, Tuscany, in 2022.

After graduation, **Carl Watson** SIPA'04 spent a few years working in New York and Washington, D.C., before returning to Columbia for grad school, with a year overseas at Sciences Po Paris, then joining the Foreign Service. He had assignments to Tokyo, Beijing, New York (US Mission to the UN), D.C., Athens and St. Petersburg, where he met his husband, Evgeny Pelepey, with whom he has two children, Alexandra and Charles (both 5).

Nancy Schwartzman is a documentary filmmaker and retired tech founder. Her documentary, *Roll Red Roll* (POV/Netflix), was nominated for a Peabody Award in 2019. She loves feminist true crime, films that center unlikely heroes, and blending her passion for justice, youth culture, sexuality and tech. In a past life, she developed a mobile app, Circle of 6, as a harm reduction tool to prevent violence. Circle of 6 was used around the world and awarded a prize under the Obama/Biden White House. After 23 years of living in NYC, Nancy recently relocated to sunny Los Angeles and got her driver's license! She still wears her Yankees cap, though.

Amanda Ford — technically CC'98, but she started with us — has been a film and television costume designer for about 20 years. A recent project, *Fear Street*, will be released on Netflix this summer. After 27 years in NYC she and her partner, Sam, are relocating to Bozeman, Mont. Amanda says she is happy to still be connected to some of her Columbia family after all this time: She quit being a vegetarian after 27 years at an omakase with **Shauna Grob** and **Thuy Le** '98; the Brooklyn "movie club" with **Erik Laroi** and **Mia Tran** has been going for at least a decade; hanging out in Toronto with **Petros Babasikas** and his family; sadly attending the memorial service of **J. Humberto Cruz** with **Erik Flatmo** and **Shauna Grob**; and celebrating Thanksgiving in Lawrence, Kan., with **Nick Syrett** and **Amie Cota** '98 (née LaCour).

Thank you, Nick!

I celebrated my sweet daughter's 4th birthday in October. Due to the pandemic I decided it was safer to scale down her typically large

birthday bash and instead just invite a few kids from our immediate neighborhood. We did a Halloween theme, as that's her favorite holiday and as her birthday is just a few days before it. For Halloween she was a black kitty cat, and we decorated our car for a neighborhood trunk-or-treat. She looked so adorable sitting in the decorated trunk handing out candy in her costume! As soon as she turned 4, I signed her up with our local Girl Scouts troop, and she has been enjoying earning various badges to place on her Daisy uniform. I am also letting her attend weekly one-hour group classes for ballet and tap, though I am holding off on sending her to preschool until the pandemic is over. In March we had a fun time attending the Florida Strawberry Festival, where my father was performing; he played guitar with my cousins' band, Oxford Nolan. Due to the pandemic, the festival decided to have local bands perform rather than bringing in the nationally famous bands, in an effort to keep the crowd size down.

As I wrap up this column it is late March, and we are very much looking forward to the upcoming Easter festivities. My daughter keeps pretending to be a rabbit while gleefully hopping around to Gene Autry's "Peter Cottontail" song.

Blessings to all, please say safe and do send us your updates.

In lumine Tuo videbimus lumen.

1998

Sandie Angulo Chen
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Happy summer, Class of '98! Hope you and your families are all well. I'm sorry to say we don't have any new notes this issue. We'd love to hear from you, so if you have news to share, please send updates my way via email or the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

1999

Lauren Gershell
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Hi! I'm **Lauren Gershell** (née Rosenberg) and I'm thrilled to be our new *CCT* class correspondent!



Contact CCT

Update your address, email or phone; submit a Class Note, new book, photo, obituary or Letter to the Editor; or send us an email. Click "Contact Us" at college.columbia.edu/cct.



I look forward to learning more about all of you and what you have been up to recently, and also wanted to share some information about myself for those who don't know me.

After graduation, I stayed at Columbia and earned a J.D. from the Law School in 2002. I spent several years working at a big law firm in NYC as a litigator and married my husband, Leland Gershell PS'98, GSAS'00, who made the poor choice to attend Dartmouth before intelligently coming to Columbia for graduate school. I took more than a decade off from the professional world to be a stay-at-home mother to our children, Caroline (now 15) and Alexander (now 12), and in 2019 published my debut novel, *That's What Frenemies Are For*. My family and I still live in Manhattan, where I was born and raised, and have added a very cute and sweet dog, Coco, to our family.

Given the past year, I will assume that, like me, you all could use some fun and interesting updates from classmates to distract us from everything. I promise that no news is too small or quirky, and you most definitely don't need to have won an impressive international prize or been on a reality TV show to write in (though I'm sure someone in our class has done something like this ... anyone?).

I look forward to hearing from all of you (and from those I'm planning to hunt down ... you know who you are). Please write to me at the email at the top of the column, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

CCT gathered these notes from classmates:

Sara Dauber (née Steindel) writes: "I live in Washington, D.C., and work at the NIH supporting the small business program at National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. This is a shift after many years working in life sciences startups. In this new role I get an inside view of the grant-making that supports small businesses. Startups and government are about as different from each other as could be, so it's been a culture shock! I started the job during Covid-19, so my work has all been from my house in D.C., where at least two of my four children are also always home with me. (I am thankful for a hybrid model where they do go to school a few days a week.) Boaz is in eighth

grade, Jordana is in sixth, and Moses and Delilah are in fourth. We very much like D.C. and are glad to have made the move (from Cincinnati) in 2018 when my husband, Andrew Dauber '00, joined Children's National Hospital as a division chief (endocrinology). We bought our house from a Columbia grad and have dear friends from the Class of '00 down the block!"

Douglas Freeman writes: "I recently went through the experience of changing jobs during a pandemic. After nine and a half years at White & Case, I left to join the Data Analytics team in the Knowledge and Innovation Department at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett, where I am managing the enterprise search and helping build out the data architecture to support search and other initiatives. It's been a really interesting experience onboarding via Zoom. (I've never even seen the interior of the offices except from a few photos!) Fortunately, everyone's been very supportive and I feel like I'm figuring out what we need to do to succeed and making plans to get there."

Danielle Dreilinger, a journalist, is "psyched to report that I published my first book in May. *The Secret History of Home Economics: How Trailblazing Women Harnessed the Power of Home and Changed the Way We Live* tells the fascinating and surprisingly feminist story of women who wielded a powerful, scientific and educational vision, and explains why home ec matters today. And I even got to claim my Butler Library alumni card so I could read Melvil Dewey's papers. To attend a virtual (or maybe even in-person!) event, check thedailyreason.com." [Editor's note: See "Bookshelf."]

James Boyle is an active-duty military officer, and has spent most of the past decade stationed in the Asia-Pacific region and the Middle East. He is currently on a Navy scholarship pursuing a master's in Asian studies at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, and will report in July to the Joint Staff at the Pentagon for a three-year tour. He, his wife, Stefanie, and their dog, Reza, live in Washington, D.C., and enjoy running through Rock Creek Park during their off time."

Valerie McGuire shares, "I published a book in 2020, *Italy's Sea: Empire and Nation in the Mediterranean, 1895-1945*, and am an

assistant professor at the University of St Andrews in Scotland."

Brad Neuberg moved from San Francisco to Alameda with his daughter, Cameron (3), and his wife, Abby, during the pandemic. "I work at a space company named Planet that has about 200 shoebox-sized cubesats in low Earth orbit imaging the earth daily. I am on the machine learning team applying computer vision to satellite imagery, detecting things such as illegal logging roads in the Amazon Rainforest. I keep up to date with **Susan Kassin** and **Laurent Vasilescu** with virtual lunches. I am very tired of the pandemic and can't wait until normal life returns again."

2000

Prisca Bae
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Noam Elcott, a professor in the Department of Art History and Archaeology and the Jonathan Sobel & Marcia Dunn Program Chair for Art Humanities, was selected for a 2021 Great Teacher Award by the Society of Columbia Graduates.

Desiree Santos is a psychoanalyst in private practice and an adjunct professor at the School of Social Work.

Mark Neighbors is completing his second year at the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta, where he reports on rule of law, governance and refugee issues. Mark and his family are there until summer 2022.

Leslie Zivin Kandel lives in Boca Raton with her husband and two kids (9 and 12). She stays busy managing virtual school, and prior to the pandemic was doing community theater.

Chelsea Wald wrote a book, *Pipe Dreams: The Urgent Global Quest to Transform the Toilet*. She is a science journalist and lives in The Hague with her family.

Yehuda Kurtzer published *The New Jewish Canon*, a book on the major ideas and debates of Jewish life in the past two generations.

Chunyu Wang owns Wang Law Office in New York and California.

Matthew Jacobs is a software engineer at Mastercard, building a digital payments system. He says he's grateful his parents received the vaccine, and recently celebrated Pi Day with "nerd friends over Zoom."

Gabriel Palley and his wife live in Albuquerque with 6-year-old triplets. He is a doctor at the academic hospital and teaches residents how to care for Covid-19 patients.

Sebastian Chan has been in midtown Manhattan throughout the pandemic. He recently joined Kirkland & Ellis as a partner.

Matthew R. Wilson will direct the first show for the Chesapeake Shakespeare Company this summer and is finishing his book on *Commedia dell'arte*, due at the end of 2021. He is on faculty at The George Washington University's Corcoran School of the Arts + Design and was named director of graduate studies for its Academy for Classical Acting in partnership with The Shakespeare Theatre Company. Matt is celebrating his 20th anniversary with **Sarah Bartlett**, an associate professor of English at Northern Virginia Community College (where she teaches alongside First Lady Jill Biden). They are in D.C. with their Lab-hound, Nefertiti.

Marissa Alguire is an attorney and deputy chair of the Labor and Employment practice at Akerman. She is in Los Angeles with her husband and kids (5-year-old twins), cooking their hearts out and rock climbing as a family.

Natalia Petrzela hosts and co-produces *Welcome to Your Fantasy*, a podcast on the cultural history/tru crime story of Chippendales. It's a Spotify Exclusive and will be available on all platforms this summer.

Congrats on the great reviews in *The Guardian*, *The New Yorker*, *Vulture* and *LA Magazine*!

Maciej Paluch lives in San Francisco and has been a researcher at Genentech for 13 years. He recently tried camper van life and now wants one!

Michael Shen is in L.A. with Erika Shen BC'02, their two sons and daughter. He is still acting and says he was grateful for the bounce house and swimming pool during quarantine.

Sam Hirzel and his wife, Christine Kane, welcomed Mason Marshall Hirzel on August 10. He joins brother Maxwell Taylor Hirzel, born November 8, 2018. Sam has had many late-night Zoom happy hours with Zeta Psi brothers. He writes, "It's not Cannons's, The West End or 531 W. 113th St., but I appreciated the opportunity to reconnect."

Shana Inofuentes co-founded and directs the social impact venture The Quechua Project, “a 21st century approach to linguistic oppression and Native erasure” (Gulf Coast Diplomacy) that supports Indigenous rights. She is in Arlington, Va., with her son and partner. In May, she earned a master’s in communication, culture and technology from Georgetown.

Charlie Nightingale joined the legal department of PIMCO in June 2020 and oversees the firm’s private funds globally. While joining a new firm during a pandemic was difficult, he says his transition was made easier by bumping into new colleague **Michelle Galvez**, who works in the legal department in New York. Charlie has lived in Newport Beach, Calif., since 2009 with his wife, Alison, and sons (11 and 8).

Jason Streem is a periodontist in Cleveland. He is in touch with **Matt Radley**, **Chandler Bocklage**, **Ray Martinez**, **Sam Rubert**, **Matt Bloodgood**, **Lorenzo Melendez** and **Jennifer Melendez**. Jason notes their “text message thread is very active and everyone has been growing beards and losing weight during Covid. It’s been a good time to get healthier.”

Neal Kravitz and **Phoebe Goode** are orthodontists. Neal is in the D.C. area and a clinical faculty member at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry. He proudly punishes his young patients who don’t brush their teeth by placing “Princeton colors on their braces.”

Helen Kim graduated from Northwestern Pritzker School of Law in 2005, worked 10 years in M&A in Big Law in NYC, London and Los Angeles and then decided to reinvent herself. She is in her last year of medical school at the Boonshoft School of Medicine in Dayton, Ohio, found the love of her life during the pandemic, and is getting married in September and moving to Nashville!

Jonathan Galler is a partner with the South Florida law firm of Gutter Chaves Josepher Rubin Forman Fleisher Miller. He practices trust and estate litigation and recently authored the *Florida Law of Trusts*, published by Westlaw. He can be reached at jgaller@floridatx.com.

Claire Hunsaker left Big Tech to start askflossie.com, a personal finance platform for women. She, Sean and baby Magnus left San

Francisco, got a requisite pandemic puppy and have been hiding out in rural West Marin. Claire spent tax season doing free tax prep for low-income filers through the IRS VITA program.

Christopher Cross was promoted to lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army JAG Corps and is the chief of administrative law for 1st Armored Division Fort Bliss, Texas. He is moving this summer with his sons, Christopher (13) and Miles (9), to Fort Knox, Ky., where he will be deputy staff judge advocate for the U.S. Army Recruiting Command.

Jenny Fan Raj says hello from San Francisco. She spent most of last year sheltering in place in Palos Verdes with her husband and two children says she is grateful for the safety and health of her family and loved ones. She joined the board of Youth Speaks, a Bay Area nonprofit that empowers youth to find, develop and publicly present their voices as creators of social change.

Adriana Villavicencio published *Am I My Brother’s Keeper: Educational Opportunities and Outcomes for Black and Brown Boys*, which is about how districts and schools can embed racial equity into policies and practices. She is an assistant professor at UC Irvine and lives near campus with her husband and kids (6 and 2).

Gered Doherty moved back East in January 2020. He lives in Northern Virginia and works the medtech space.

Erin Ortiz (née Erdman) is in Dallas with her husband of 11 years and kids, Myer (9), Sadie (7), and Emme (4). She left the Secret Service three years ago and works for AT&T in executive protection. The family lives two miles from Erin’s parents and has been busy with three kids playing multiple sports.

Daniel Beliaevsky is an associate professor and chair of the Fine Art and Music Department at Yeshiva College. He performs, lately via Zoom, and has been making documentaries on living composers since 2010. Daniel’s films are *Sonata* (1957), about composer Donald Harris and *Secret Music*, about composer David Del Tredici. Just as the pandemic hit, he finished a film based on the Secret Music feature *Gay Body of Music*. Daniel is working on an animation-live action hybrid short about Bach’s C Major Prelude, *WTC 1*, this summer.

Kim Salzman (née Worly) lives in Northern Israel with her husband, three kids and two dogs. She is the director of Israel operations for the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh.

John Kriegsman is in London with his wife, Suzanne, and son, James (3). John is the U.S. alternate director at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. He writes, “Covid aside, I’ve been rowing, most recently competing at the last Henley Royal Regatta, in 2019. Staple food item remains peanut butter.”

Gideon Yago shares that son Solomon was born Christmas Day 2019 and “is an absolute delight. We’re grateful that we were able to experience so much of his first year, largely because of the lock-ins and lockdowns.”

Finally, I am mostly in NYC and working on the launch of The Asian American Foundation, an organization founded by Asian American leaders like Li Lu ’96, LAW’96, BUS’96, founder and chair of Himalaya Capital Management, who simultaneously earned a B.A. in economics, a J.D. and an M.B.A. Our mission is to serve AAPIs in the pursuit of belonging and prosperity, free from discrimination, slander and violence in our country.

Share your news with me via email, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2001

Jonathan Gordin
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I can’t believe we’ve been “living” in and with the pandemic for more than a year. I’ve been reliant on social media for most of my updates, but for this column I did something old-fashioned and canvassed one third of you via email — I know, who emails anymore? Anyhow, some of you do; I got great responses. I will be reaching out to another third for the next issue. Stay tuned, or just write in with your own updates.

Ben Ryan writes, “After eight years covering the science of HIV, viral hepatitis and cancer for *POZ*, *Hep* and *Cancer Health* magazines, I resigned from my editor-at-large position there and have been braving

the freelance science journalism front, writing for places like <<name drop your favorite impressive publications here>>. My website is benryan.net if you’re curious. I recently relocated from Hell’s Kitchen back to the hallowed glory of the UWS.”

Sheila Nazarian writes, “It has been a whirlwind since my last update. My Netflix show, *Skin Decision*, launched in 2020 and has been a dream come true. Nazarian Plastic Surgery and Spa26 are expanding. Theskinspot.com has taught me the language of e-commerce. Nazarianinstitute.org has its own team now and has gone virtual and on-demand. My daughter had her Zoom bat mitzvah last year and we are prepping for my son’s bar mitzvah this year. Really working on reexamining and reevaluating personal and professional goals this year, like many of you. Would love to connect, and you can keep in touch on IG: [@drsheilanazarian](https://www.instagram.com/drsheilanazarian).”

Wally Suphap LAW’04 writes with updates relating to recent work in the diversity and inclusion space. “Effective February, I was elected to the Board of Directors of APIA Scholars, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit providing scholarships and other educational and developmental opportunities to Asian-Americans and Pacific Islander Americans.

“In November, I was recognized as a Top 10 Diversity Consultant on the Global Diversity List 2020. The list recognizes leaders around the world who work to enhance diversity and inclusion in the workplace and beyond.

“Last year I was invited to join the Executive Board of Columbia Pride, the Columbia Alumni Association’s LGBTQ+ alumni organization. Among the network’s recent achievements is the creation and launch of Columbia College’s Pride Scholarship, the first scholarship devoted to leadership in the LGBTQ+ space. It has raised more than \$28,000. The College will name its first recipients in the 2021–22 academic year.”

Thank you, Wally, for the important work you are doing!

Sam Polk’s company, Everytable, recently opened its 11th location — Everytable Hollywood — and is laying the groundwork to expand to NYC, with a planned first opening in Q3. “I have three kids — Eveline (6), Jude (4) and Annalise (1) — and



my wife recently started a business, Remedy Psychiatry, to make world-class psychiatric care accessible and affordable to all."

I can personally report that Sam's company is making a difference in Los Angeles, as my daughter came home from school and told me about the work that companies like Everytable are doing to address "food deserts" in Los Angeles. Thanks, Sam!

Anna Rozentel (née Smirnov) reports, "I am doing well. I am a doctor who's battling the pandemic. I work for CityMD urgent care, and the last year has been challenging to say the least. I got married in 2004 and have two sons (16 and 13). I miss Columbia a lot; things seemed so much simpler back then. But I hope my older son will get to continue the tradition — he will apply to college soon!"

Thanks, Anna, for being on the front lines!

Richard Plotkin is busy writing musicals, and this year became an "advanced" member of the BMI Musical Theatre Workshop.

Congrats, Richard.

Jenny Moussa Spring and her husband, Jon Spring SEAS'03, have been based in the Bay Area since 2009. "After a few months of the pandemic, we moved from our condo in SF to a home in Oakland with our two boys. I've worked for the Disney Publishing team for more than five years at a satellite office based at Pixar Animation Studios, and recently started working with the Marvel and Lucasfilm franchises as well. We've been sheltering in place for nearly a year at this point, so we are very much looking forward to when we can see our friends and families again, I hope in the near future. Happy to connect with Columbians on LinkedIn."

Jenny Shalant JRN'10 is "holding down the fort with my family in Hastings-on-Hudson; my husband and I have two boys, one in third grade, and the 'baby' will go to kindergarten in the fall(!). I head up the National Resources Defense Council editorial department. My friend **Elaine Shen**, with whom I first bonded in our sophomore year while collaborating on a *Spectator* article that we stayed up all night writing (wish I still had a copy!), is now the director of events for engagement at *The New York Times*."

Ben Wheeler shared lots of exciting news from his household. "Kate Cortesi and I moved from Brooklyn to Somerville, Mass., in 2018, and have two daughters. We still go back to NYC and would love to see people whenever that starts being a thing again!"

"2020 was a hard year for us, but it did have some silver linings. Kate's play *LOVE*, which premiered at the Marin Theater (Calif.) Company, opened on March 10, and was canceled the next day, along with so much else across the country. Luckily, they were able to film the stage production and put it online. In the fall, a second play of hers, *Is Edward Snowden Single?*, was produced by Minneapolis's Jungle Theater. This time, the production was designed from scratch with streaming in mind. Kate also had a short, one-woman play, *I Love Parties*, streamed as part of the Homebound Project, a theater fundraiser for NYC nonprofit No Kid Hungry. It's a long way from when Kate would put on plays in the basement of The West End, but in some ways it's still the exact same

"I work at Scratch (scratch.mit.edu), a creativity tool and community for kids that involves computer programming, art, music and collaboration. If you have kids, I encourage you to try it!"

Namrata Tripathi writes, "I founded and am the publisher of an imprint at Penguin Random House, Kokila. We publish diverse books for young readers (ages 0–18). And although we've only been publishing for less than two years, we've had two *New York Times* bestsellers (*Hair Love* and *Antiracist Baby*), a Newbery Honor medalist (*The Night Diary*) and a National Book Award finalist (*Patron Saints of Nothing*). I hope parents in our class find books for their kids to love on our list."

Thanks, Namrata, for sharing about your important imprint!

Siobhan O'Leary writes, "I haven't checked in in more than a decade (I think), but I relocated from NYC to Berlin in 2006 for a few months and then permanently (whatever that means nowadays) in 2009. After years of working in the publishing industry, I joined the German Medical Association's Department for International Affairs in 2015, taking on a position that combines my interest in medicine, healthcare policy, writing and translation.

"In my free time I sing in the main choir and chamber choir of the Sing-Akademie zu Berlin, which was founded in 1791 and is considered the oldest mixed-voice choir in the world. We've performed in the Philharmonie, Konzerthaus, Berliner Dom and many other venues in Berlin and beyond. Of course, rehearsals are all happening online at the moment, which is a bit depressing, but I hope that will change in the next few months. I'm well settled here and can't imagine ever leaving, though I do wish I were planning a trip home to NYC this year for an in-person reunion!"

Finally, last but not least, **Martha Sparks** shared a delightful anecdote: "On the last Saturday in 2020 before the world closed, my kids and I went to brunch [in Jackson Heights] with a few other families after Shabbat services. I was sitting next to someone I hadn't met who was wearing a Columbia sweatshirt. Not only was he a fellow Columbia College alum, but he was **Sam Oppenheim**. Our kids go to the same school, and the little two are in the same kindergarten class. Class of 2037?"

I love stories like that! Please share more, classmates.

2002

Sonia Hiradarami
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Hi, CC'02. Hope you are all well and safe in these unprecedented times.

Barbara Chubak is a urologist at Mount Sinai Hospital in NYC. She volunteered for redeployment to a Covid-19 ICU at the start of the crisis; she is now back to working her actual job, but continues to volunteer on the weekends as a supervising physician for Covid vaccine administration.

Ginger Gentile is an activist documentary filmmaker whose third feature, *Erasing Family*, which exposes how children are traumatized when a loving parent is erased from their lives after divorce, is on YouTube: bit.ly/3u5fl4O.

She hopes the film and resources available on erasingfamily.org will help families reunite and heal. Ginger is directing a new film with Cora Media that looks at admissions at Ivy League universities and was looking forward to filming at Columbia this spring. Any alumni

with stories to share, especially first-generation or low-income, are encouraged to reach out to her: gingerg@coramedia.net.

Elizabeth Clay Roy joined Generation Citizen as CEO in January. She is excited about bringing equity-rooted and experiential civics education to classrooms around the country. Elizabeth lives in Harlem with her husband and daughter.

Julia Campins (née Willdorf) LAW'05 was appointed as a Superior Court judge in Contra Costa County, Calif., in October 2019. She writes, "It's been an interesting first year and a half, with most of it during Covid, but I'm loving the job."

I, for one, could not be prouder to have classmates who are doing such great work and impacting the world around us in such a positive way. Thank you!

2003

Michael J. Novielli
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I truly hope that you are healthy and well. It certainly has been a trying year-plus for the world, but we can finally see the light at the end of the tunnel and there is much to be hopeful for. Along those lines, I'm happy to share some good news about classmates.

Carter Reum continues to make headlines, this time for becoming engaged to Paris Hilton.

I caught **Yoni Appelbaum**, a senior editor for politics at *The Atlantic*, speaking about the Biden presidential transition on MSNBC on January 17.

Rebecca Bloom writes, "I started my dream job at LinkedIn as senior counsel, advertising, supporting Moustafa Badreldin and Hanh Vo. Having worked with them for the last year as an Axiom contractor, I know how truly blessed I am to be joining their team. I can't overstate how supportive and understanding my colleagues at LinkedIn were while I juggled a job and taking care of two young children during a pandemic. I love this company and team with all my heart."

Anand Venkatesan is senior VP of strategy and head of operations at *The New York Times*.

James Thompson is an assistant attorney general in New York State.

Please submit your updates by email, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2004

Jaydip Mahida
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After 13 years working at Janssen R&D, **Adie Strickler** joined the Global Infectious Diseases & Vaccines Team in January 2020. In this position, she says she was privileged to work with an incredible team of people on the execution of several clinical trials resulting in the recent FDA Emergency Use Authorization, EMA Contingent Approval and WHO Emergency Use Listing of J&J's Covid-19 vaccine. "It's been the greatest honor of my career to play a part in bringing this critical vaccine to (eventually) billions of people across the world!"

William Kwok is co-producer of the feature film *I Was a Simple Man*, which premiered at this year's Sundance Film Festival. The recipient of the 2021 Sundance Institute Asian American Fellowship, William is a 2021 Sundance Institute Screenwriters Intensive Fellow for his upcoming feature screenwriting and directing debut, *Chinese School*.

Andrew Kornbluth published a book, *The August Trials: The Holocaust and Postwar Justice in Poland*, in March.

Annie Pfeifer writes, "Twenty years after first stepping foot on our campus, I'm thrilled to be back at Columbia as an assistant professor in the Department of Germanic Languages. It's surreal to walk past Hartley Hall — my first-year dorm — on my way to the office in Hamilton Hall. Currently I'm teaching CC over Zoom, but I hope to be back in the classroom soon."

Abigail Druck Shudofsky and her husband welcomed their fourth child, Elior Laviv, in December. Abigail writes, "Her siblings, Adiv, Urit and Etai, are simply thrilled. Maternity leave is quite different during a pandemic — not much opportunity to rest when kids are learning from home! — but it was certainly special to have the bigger kids pop by between classes to check in on and kiss the baby. Thankfully, they have made the most of their

year-plus of nonstop togetherness, but they are definitely excited to have a playmate join their ranks."

For the last 15 years, **Elizabeth Brus** was an educator in and curriculum writer for charter and private schools in NYC. She adds, "I also have two rugrats at home in Cobble Hill, Saskia (3) and Hendrik (7 months). I recently quit my job as a teacher and am pivoting my career to try to, finally, become a writer. To support that goal, I am tutoring and doing contract curriculum work on the side. I would love to reconnect with Columbia alums in Brooklyn or elsewhere for networking or socializing."

That's all for this issue. Please continue to send updates, as we want to hear from as many folks as possible. Career and family updates are always fun, but please reach out to share about trips you might take, events you have attended or are looking forward to, or even interesting books or shows you have come across. You can send updates either via email or through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2005

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Best wishes for a happy and healthy summer, CC'05! This column still needs a class correspondent. If you are interested in connecting, and reconnecting, with classmates and sharing their news in this column, please send a note to cct@columbia.edu. (Never fear: You'll get lots of assistance from the Alumni Office!) In the meantime, here is the latest news. Thanks to all who wrote in!

We have exciting news from **Italome Ohikhuare**: "I finally landed my first, professional screenwriting job! I was recently hired to write on a new show for Netflix, *First Kill*. Emma Roberts is producing, and it will premiere later this year. Be sure to look for my name in the credits."

We also heard from **Bindu Suresh**, who has lots of big news! She shares, "Since my last update, I've gotten married (to Andrew Harder SIPA'07) and had two kids (my daughter, Atlin, who is now 3, and my son, Nikita, who is 1). We live in Montreal. I also started work-

ing as a pediatrician in 2018 and published my first novel, *26 Knots*, in 2019. The book's French translation, *26 noeuds*, came out in April!"

Xan Nowakowski shares that they recently published a book, *Sexual Deviance in Health and Aging: Uncovering Later Life Intimacy*, which according to its description: "... explores life course health experiences and unmet care needs of populations perceived as sexually deviant in the United States. These groups include but are not limited to: gay, lesbian, and bisexual people; asexual and demisexual people; trans, nonbinary, and gender non-conforming people; intersex people; nonmonogamous and polyamorous people; kink and fetishism practitioners; sex and adult entertainment workers; individuals labeled as sexual offenders and predators; people living with sexually transmitted infections; people identifying as neuroatypical and/or autistic; and people with chronic conditions and disabilities who lead active sexual lives. Lacey J. Ritter and Alexandra C.H. Nowakowski analyze the social, cultural, and political origins of perceptions of these groups as sexually deviant. In the process, they provide history and context for the healthcare experiences of people within each of these broad groups. Simultaneously, *Sexual Deviance in Health and Aging* highlights the complexity and individuality of different people's journeys through sexuality in health and aging."

Classmates would love to hear from you, too. Send a note to the email at the top of the column or via the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2006

Andrew Stinger
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Happy 15-year graduation anniversary, Class of 2006! I hope many of you were able to connect at our virtual reunion in late May/early June. If you have stories or updates, please send them my way for inclusion in our Class Notes. Please send photos right to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

In addition to serving on our Reunion Committee and being

promoted to director of international customer success at Finalsité last year, **Meredith Kaplan** and her husband, Blake Seers, welcomed their daughter, Maren Adaire Carol Seers, on October 1.

Maiya Chard-Yaron married Jerry Edelson, a gastroenterology fellow at Brooke AMC, on December 19 at the South Congress Hotel in Austin, Texas. Bridesmaids attending remotely included **Abby Deift** and Elana Stiefel Lefkowitz BC'07, with Abby delivering a toast via video from New York to the in-person guests. Maiya is the executive director of Texas Hillel, based at UT-Austin. [Editor's note: See "Just Married!"]

Sean Wilkes accepted an appointment as assistant professor of psychiatry at the Uniformed Services University and is completing his third tour of duty in Hawaii as division psychiatrist for the Army's 25th Infantry Division.

Isaac Stone Fish launched a firm, Strategy Risks, which quantifies corporate exposure to China.

Teddy Diefenbach announced his interactive animated series *We Are OFK* in December onstage at The Game Awards, "the Oscars of videogames." The series will release later this year on game consoles, along with music by the virtual band OFK.

2007

David D. Chait
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I hope everyone is doing well amidst everything!

Keith Hernandez was recently appointed deputy GM for Spanish Latin America for the short video company Kuaishou, the world's second largest short video platform, recently listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. He will be responsible for operations and growth with a focus on Spanish South America. Keith's previous venture, the short video startup KALO, merged with Kuaishou's Latam-focused app Kwai. Keith also is strategy business partner to the global head of Kwai App in overseeing cross-functional communication and collaboration. He will split his time among the global HQ in Beijing (pandemic permitting), the Spanish South America team office in Bogota and the LatAm HQ in Mexico City.



Andrew Russeth writes, "In late October, my wife, Laurretta Charlton, and I moved from New York to Seoul. Laurretta's an editor at *The New York Times*, which is opening an office here, and I'm freelance writing about art. We love it. If you pass through, once travel becomes easier, please say hello!"

Kat Dey BUS'14 (née Vorotova) welcomed her second daughter, Emma Alexandra Dey, in October. On a professional note, attitude, where Kat is co-founder and president, was named the 632nd fastest-growing U.S. company by *Inc.* magazine in 2020.

Tao Tan writes, "I left McKinsey after eight years to become a founding partner and chief operating officer at Healthcare Services Acquisition Corp., a special purpose acquisition company backed by BlackRock and AllianceBernstein. We IPOed on the Nasdaq in December and raised \$330 million."

Alison Mariella Désir is working on her book, *The Unbearable Whiteness of Running*, coming October 2022. She shares, "Running purports to be a space where all are welcome — 'all you need are running shoes' and 'just show up' are common phrases by those trying to encourage newbies into the sport. But, in truth, long-distance running requires much more, a lot of which is unavailable to Black people due to historic and present policies rooted in racism and white supremacy. *The Unbearable Whiteness of Running* is a manifest tracing my personal journey toward social change through distance running and exposes the historic and current effects of racism on the industry while calling for truly inclusive fitness culture. This book exists at the intersection of running, sociology, social justice and anti-racism work, and invites readers to reimagine a running industry where all are truly welcome."

Samantha Criss (née Feingold) shares, "My daughter, Emerson Scarlett, was born on December 2. My husband, Dr. Jonathan Criss ('01 Yale), and I are overjoyed to have three amazing kids. Emerson is joined by her brothers, Miles (5.5) and Hunter (2). We live in Delray Beach, Fla., and love the year-round warm sun!"

Eric Bondarsky writes, "What an exciting series of reunions on a chilly day in Englewood! First, I shared an adult beverage with avid CCT reader

Jon Merkin '09, BUS'16, followed by 50th-birthday beverages with Hillel Parness '95, LAW'95 just hours later. Roar, gentlemen, Roar."

Becca Hartog writes, "In June 2020, I gave birth to Adelaide June. She has turned into the most delightful infant who loves to babble and crawl, and is threatening to start walking any day now. I will finish pediatric cardiology training at the University of Michigan/C.S. Mott Children's Hospital this July. My husband, Addie, and I are then moving to St. Louis, Mo., to begin our first post-training jobs, at Washington University St. Louis Children's Hospital. We are so excited to be moving back to be among family and for this first step in our careers!"

Michele Scott, a member of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, was named a 2020 recipient of The 40 Under 40 Native Americans Award from The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development.

Tarik Bolat shares some "updates": "David Schor for years had been growing restless with irascible vintners (see November/December 2010 Class Notes) and has turned his considerable literary talents to the blossoming field of ad copy for the next generation of heirloom apples. A modest Macoun was recently praised for its berry-like flesh, while a Cosmic Crisp was extolled as nonpareil for its electric zing of tart. Talk about living the Core Curriculum! Congrats, Dave!"

"Paul Sonne's career has taken flight with his opening of Luck Be A Lorikeet, the world's first exotic flightless bird preserve and riverboat casino, located on an abandoned oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico. Guests can do hot yoga at sunrise with Zander the Ostrich or moonlight meditation with Suri the Scrubfowl before moving to the card tables to try their luck. Don't think about card counting at the blackjack tables, Columbians! Bouncer and local tough Pyotr Penguin will march you out of there in no time."

"Peter Shalek has converted a hobby into a passion by becoming Canada's most celebrated goatherd-mystic. Brandishing a Jedi-like command of his flock while handcrafting some of the finest *chèvre* and feta this side of the Aegean, Shalek has developed a small but intensely passionate set of devotees for whom he is a spiritual lodestar."

2008

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Happy summer, CC'08! This column still needs a class correspondent. If you are interested in connecting, and reconnecting, with classmates and sharing their news in this column, please send a note to cct@columbia.edu. (Never fear: You'll get lots of assistance from the Alumni Office!) In the meantime, here is the latest news. Thanks to all who wrote in!

Julie Raskin is putting her urban studies degree to good use as the executive director of the Sanitation Foundation, the official nonprofit affiliate of The City of New York Department of Sanitation. The organization facilitates public-private partnerships to advance NYC's zero-waste goals. Julie and Matthew Haicken were married in April 2020 by NY1 TV anchor Pat Kiernan on the live morning show. It was one of the state's first virtual weddings. [Editor's note: See "Just Married!"]

Betsy Remes Purves and her husband, Jon, welcomed baby Claire Miriam to their family on February 28. She joins big brother Robbie, who is mostly thrilled about the new addition.

Alec Schachner lives in Hanoi, Vietnam, where he is owner and head sound engineer at Éch Éch Recording Studio, at the edge of the peach blossom fields next to the Red River. Alec has recorded and produced numerous Vietnamese and international musicians and bands across a wide variety of genres. A selection of projects can be found at echech.squarespace.com/projects, including the multi-genre compilation album *Ech Ech Volume 1*, featuring 18 Hanoi-based music projects.

More recently, Alec released a Vietnamese language version song-in-translation with some Viet rap verses thrown in encouraging environmental awareness and addressing such issues as pollution and endangered animal poaching (bit.ly/3cB5zla). Since the end of summer after graduation, Alec has lived and worked in Vietnam. He is now fluent in the language and also does poetry translation work. Additionally, as a multi-instrumental electroacoustic musician under the moniker Scobi Wan, Alec performs

live sets in a variety of genres from harsh noise, to ambient soundscapes, to deep house, to post-folk.

Andrew Martin married Laura Kolbe, a doctor and writer, in December in Hillsdale, N.Y. His second book, *Cool for America: Stories*, a collection of stories, was published in the pandemic summer of 2020 and will be out in paperback in July.

From **Henry Pedersen**: "After a phenomenal 10 years, I'm bringing my career as a Green Beret to an end and moving home to Seattle this fall/winter. I'd love to be in touch with anyone who can help guide my next steps — it's going to be a fun challenge to apply the lessons of two combat tours in Afghanistan and several years working with partners in eastern Europe to the civilian world. But mostly I'm excited to have time to hike in the Cascades with friends."



Ruthzee Louijeune is running for Boston City Council At-Large. She attended Harvard Law and the Harvard Kennedy School and graduated in 2014. Ruthzee is the daughter of Haitian immigrants, a graduate of Boston public schools, and a lawyer and advocate. She previously served as senior counsel to Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.)'s campaigns. Ruthzee is running to build a more affordable, equitable and inclusive Boston, and says she has the passion and conviction to make that happen. Please visit ruthzeeforboston.com to donate, sign up for emails and find out how you can get involved!

Classmates would love to hear from you, too. Send a note to the email at the top of the column or via the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

Just Married!

CCT welcomes wedding photos where at least one member of the couple is a College alum. Please submit your high-resolution photo, and caption information, on our photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Congratulations!



1 NICOLE MUSTER



2 ROSINA DIBELLO



3 ERIC SCHNEIDER



4 GREYLINE PHOTOGRAPHY



5 SASHA FELS



6



1. Francis Grunow '96 (second from left) married Carolyn Geck on October 6, 2018, at what Grunow called Detroit's "forever Tiger Stadium." Joining the couple were, from far left, David Gratt '90 (sporting 1990s-era Travis Fryman), Phyllis Fletcher '94 and Adam Schweber '96.

2. Gabriella Ripoll '10 and Filipe Fernandes were married on February 29, 2020, at Florida's Lighthouse Point Yacht Club. Celebrating were (left to right) Noah Scribner, Aimee Birnbaum, Tyler Naill, Aurelie N'Songo, the groom, the bride, Gary Denardo, Monica Watson, Alvaro Salkeld, Ilana Broad and Miriam Manber BC'10.

3. Matthew Haicken and Julie Raskin '08 were married in their Brooklyn apartment on April 20, 2020, by NY1 anchor Pat Kiernan on the live morning show.

4. Jerry Edelson and Maiya Chard-Yaron '06 were married in the South Congress Hotel in Austin, Texas, on December 19.

5. Tracy Devine Guzman and Adam Fels '93 were married on November 27 on Sanibel Island, Fla.

6. Asya Gottesman and Lawrence Geyman '12 were married aboard the *Atlantis* yacht in Brooklyn on August 25, 2019. Celebrating were (left to right) Ann Wang, Chao "Carl" Wang SEAS'13; the bride; the groom; Ella Geyman (née Brodsky) '89, mother of the groom; Matthew Geyman '21, brother of the groom; Brandi Ripp '12; and Daniel Rockower LAW'15. Not pictured: Leo Brodsky GSAS'88, SIPA'88, uncle of the groom.

7. Shane Olds and Tara Barrett-Olds '10 were married at the Hotel Zamora, St. Pete Beach, Fla., on March 7.



BUFFY FELDMAN, LIFELONG PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO

2009

Columbia College Today
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Happy summer, CC'09! This column still needs a class correspondent. If you are interested in connecting, and reconnecting, with classmates and sharing their news in this column, please send a note to cct@columbia.edu. (Never fear: You'll get lots of assistance from the Alumni Office!) In the meantime, here is the latest news. Thanks to all who wrote in!

Sasha Stewart writes: "I wrote and produced a Netflix limited series, *Amend: The Fight for America*, a six-part multimedia documentary centered on the 14th amendment. It is hosted by Will Smith and executive produced by Larry Wilmore, and was released on February 17. Columbia professor Eric Foner '63, GSAS'69 is a central figure in 'Resistance,' our second episode, which focuses on Foner's specialty, the Reconstruction. So if you missed out on Foner's class (or just miss it), give it a watch."

Arnold Mwanjila shares: "My feature film directorial debut, *Taliya*, about an ambitious fisherman who ensnares and enslaves a mermaid-like water spirit off the coast of Kenya in order to exploit it as a grand magical theatrical exhibit, had its world premiere on February 20 at the NewFIlmmakers Los Angeles Film Festival 2021. It was the exclusive feature film anchoring its Black History Month program, Infocus: Black Cinema Shorts.

"The film continued its festival run with a second showing at Cinequest Film and Creativity Festival in March."

Jenny Lam is celebrating the 10th anniversary of Artists on the Lam/going independent as a curator! As part of the celebration, she's curating an international art exhibition, *DECAHEDRON*, opening virtually this June at artistsonthelam.com. Recently, Jenny was invited to speak at the Leonardo LASER Talk "Resilience: From Cells to the Human Experience," and her own artwork was exhibited at You Are Beautiful in Chicago. She is also collaborating with **Anabell Liriano Krzyzanowski** (née Martinez) on bilingual children's books.

MaryAlice Parks JRN'13 shares that she accepted an exciting role as

a White House Correspondent for *ABC News* in January to cover the Biden administration. She writes, "*ABC News* made history 47 years ago when it assigned the first woman, Ann Compton, to cover the White House for a TV network, and this year ABC made history again when its news division named an all-female lineup of White House correspondents."

After finishing an M.S. at the Journalism School, **MaryAlice** started at ABC's Washington bureau as a Frank Reynolds Fellow and became a segment producer for *This Week with George Stephanopoulos*. She covered the 2016 campaign and then worked in a management position as the deputy political director this last election cycle, helping to craft the network's campaign and election coverage. In her new role, **MaryAlice** says she hopes to bring probing questions to the administration and helpful context to viewers. She welcomes all ideas and would love to hear from alums in the nation's capital.

On a more personal celebratory note, she shares that she recently became engaged to her longtime love, **Chris Kimmel**, an officer in the Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps, who proposed at their church.

Classmates would love to hear from you, too. Send a note to the email at the top of the column or via the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2010

Julia Feldberg Klein
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Hi, 2010. I hope you are staying safe and healthy. After 11 years as your class correspondent, it's time to pass the torch. I'll look for other ways to contribute and stay connected to the school, but in the meantime, if anyone wants to take my place starting with the Fall 2021 issue, please reach out ASAP to cct@columbia.edu. And now ... on to the notes!

Daniel D'Addario and **Jacob Schneider** welcomed their first daughter, Cleo, on May 21, 2020. The two Lions and their cub live happily in Brooklyn, where Dan is a staff critic at *Variety* and Jake is a supervising public defender at Neighborhood Defender Services.

Tara Barrett-Olds says, "Fortunate to have entered into newlywed

life! After one canceled wedding and a diagnosis that led to two total hip replacements in January, we made it!" [Editor's note: See "Just Married!"]

Jon Rocholl writes, "My wife, Alyssa, and I are thrilled to announce the birth of our first child, Chloe Kiva, born on March 12. Both mom and baby are doing great and we are loving life as a family of three!"

Valerie Sapozhnikova shares, "I never imagined leaving New York, but in 2020 I closed my New York chapter and moved to sunny Los Angeles. The weather is a major upgrade; taxes less so. I also left my job at Cravath in March 2021 and joined Cooley's capital markets practice. This has definitely been a year of change and self-reflection. If there are Columbia alumni in Los Angeles, it would be great to have a local reunion once the world returns to a bit more normal."

[Editor's note: Until a new class correspondent is in place, please send your news and updates to cct@columbia.edu, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.]

2011

Nuriel Moghavam and Sean Udell
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Happy 10th reunion, Twenty Eleven! Can you believe it's been 10 years since Snoop Dogg traipsed onstage at Bacchanal smoking a blunt and wearing a Columbia basketball jersey? Neither can we. Like Snoop Dogg, our classmates have been on the up-and-up since then.

Jordan Katz GSAS'20 had been at Columbia for nearly the entire decade following our senior year. In June, she defended her dissertation on Zoom. Her completion of a Ph.D. in history marked the end of 11 years at Columbia, which is definitely too much time to spend in one place. In November, with masks on, Jordan and her husband, Ian, welcomed their daughter, Liana, to the world. In her parents' opinion (and the editors concur), Liana is by far the best thing

to come out of 2020. This fall, Jordan will start a position as assistant professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Drop her a line if you're in the area!

Since 2018, **Eric Rosenberg** has been chief of cyber intellectual property law at the Air Force's 67th Cyberspace Wing in San Antonio. He advises 67 CW on cyberspace operations, intellectual property law, technology transfer, international law, contract and fiscal law, and ethics. Eric was honored as the Wing Staff Civilian of the Year for 2019 and was presented an Exemplary Civilian Service Award on June 25, 2020. The Exemplary Civilian Service Award was for his leading the effort to designate 67 CW as a federal laboratory with patent and software licensing authorities and for advising on 32 cooperative research and development agreements, worth an estimated \$37,922,746.64. He also recently negotiated 67 CW's first patent license agreement. Before moving to San Antonio, Eric was an associate

at DeVore & DeMarco, a boutique cyber and intellectual property law firm in New York City.

Similarly moving that dough, **Austin Cohen BUS'16** has been working tirelessly as founder and CEO of FlexIt (along with his fraternity brother, business partner and FlexIt chief operating officer Justin Turetsky GS'11), a fitness company with a mission to make fitness more accessible. Last summer, the company launched its Virtual Personal Training platform, where clients can take live, 1:1 sessions with certified personal trainers from the comfort of their homes. FlexIt was recently named *Men's Journal's* top streaming platform for working out from home. The training sessions run through FlexIt's proprietary technology and allow two-way communication between client and trainer. In March, FlexIt closed its partnership with 24 Hour Fitness, just another milestone in the company's growth.

Speaking of new ventures, **Ola Jacunski GSAS'17** recently

KNOW ANY GAME CHANGERS, TASTEMAKERS, WORLD SHAKERS?

LION'S PRIDE

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HONOREES WILL BE FEATURED IN CCT'S WINTER 2021-22 ISSUE



founded *khōrēō*, a new magazine of speculative fiction by immigrant and diaspora authors. Issue 1 was published February 15 to fantastic reviews. She also recently left Janssen, where she was a senior manager of product management and operations in data science and part of the team working on the Covid-19 vaccine trials, to pursue freelance consulting while completing an M.F.A. in fiction and non-fiction at the New School.

Keeping things interesting, **Karen Woodin-Rodríguez** decided to switch careers and pursue her lifelong dream of becoming an actress. This summer she'll graduate from a three-year program in Mexico City. She hopes you'll soon see her in a Netflix series ... she hopes not about narco!

And, finally, **Nicole Catá** has been feeling gratitude for moving on up while staying at her current employer. In March, Nicole turned 32, earned a retroactive promotion to senior staff attorney on the Immigration Intervention Project at Sanctuary for Families and received both doses of the Covid vaccine. She is grateful for her health, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and late-evening sunsets. She hopes everyone reading this note is safe, healthy and happy.

On that note, your editors also hope that 2021 has found you in good health. Though we met virtually this year for our 10-year reunion, we hope to see everyone in person for our 11- — 11 for 11? — year reunion!

2012

Sarah Chai
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Pat Blute writes that he and **Geoff Charles SEAS'12** did a podcast for Product Talk in March. He also wants to send shoutouts to his friends **Rohan Jotwani**, who took up watchmaking in the pandemic and made Pat a watch, and **Donia Abdelaziz**, who as of the date of submission had helped around 70 people book Covid-19 vaccine appointments.

Caitlin Burk sent an update: "I recently relocated to Boston to begin my allergy/immunology fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital. Highlights so far have been walking the Freedom Trail on the 4th of July,

trying as many lobster dishes as possible and regular Zoom game nights with Markrete Krikorian '11."

Jon Eisen and his wife, Lizzie, welcomed their first child, Alexander Neale Eisen, on January 10 in Nashville. Alex is named after Jon's baseball teammate **Alexander Aurichio**, who passed away in summer 2020.

David Morgan recently moved to Vienna to serve with the U.S. Mission to the International Organizations in Vienna for the Department of State. David previously worked in the Investment Banking Division at Goldman Sachs. He married Courtney Morgan ('10 Vanderbilt) in Dallas in 2019.

After almost a decade of post-graduate education, **Erik Nook** graduated this year with a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Harvard. His research examines how language — the words we use every day — shape how we experience, manage and communicate about our emotions. He also examines how emotion language develops across childhood and adolescence, as well as how patients and their therapists can best use language to recover from mental illness. Erik has secured a postdoctoral position in Professor Dylan Gee's lab at Yale for 2021–22 before he will start as a faculty member in the psychology department at Princeton in fall 2022. Erik says he is grateful to the many advisors and friends at Columbia who have contributed to his journey, as well as to his family, who has supported him through it all.

Cristina Ramos (née Cha) SOA'23 wrote from New York: "I finished my third and final year as an M.F.A. candidate in theater with a concentration in dramaturgy at the School of the Arts. I'm a Columbia alum twice over! Although it hasn't been the ideal time to be getting a degree in live theater (especially because my studies focus on intimacy and fight choreography), I'm still so grateful for this experience and excited for the possibilities of live theater as a space for gathering once it's safe to do so. Sending love and resilience to my fellow 2012 grads!"

Gillian Rhodes sent an update from Pakistan: "Fortunately, the pandemic is not quite to the same level of intensity here in Pakistan. It is severe, of course, but nowhere near the levels I see in the United States and Europe. The beginning of the

year was quite eventful. I received a grant from British Council Pakistan to create a performance video for an online edition of its annual Women of the World festival. I created a piece, 'More Than My Gender,' which challenges the natural reflex that a woman is described in relation to her gender. I worked with two amazing differently abled performers. The teaser is here: bit.ly/3sevkY. Finally, I did a solo performance for the first time in my career, showing three of my best solos."

2013

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Your classmates have been up to a lot over the past few months, despite the pandemic.

Kevin Montiel SW'21 earned an M.S.W. from Columbia in May. He has interned in forensic and clinical social work settings at courthouses, jails and community mental health centers. Prior to getting his graduate degree, Kevin was a junior research associate in a woman-owned, minority-led consulting group. He also holds an M.S. in clinical research methods from Fordham. Kevin says that his dual interest in research and clinical work stems from his studies at the College, where he majored in psychology with honors and concentrated in statistics. Kevin is engaged to his partner, Miguel Camacho.

Genet Micael BUS'22 is an M.B.A. candidate. She'll start her career in consulting at Bain & Co. as a summer associate. Genet is also recently engaged to her partner of eight years, Senay Mekonen. Six close friends from CC'13 celebrated their engagement night with them. Genet and Senay live in Harlem and look forward to planning a post-Covid-19 wedding that celebrates their shared Eritrean culture!

Tracy Einstein, a movement specialist and Alexander Technique teacher, continues to work in private practice and at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in NYC. She says she spent the better part of the pandemic learning how to teach online, and getting into the outdoors as much as possible. Tracy's camping out in Northampton, Mass., with her husband, Richie. Learn more: tracyeinstein.com.

Ben Basche lives in Johannesburg with his South African-born wife, Talya. The couple gave birth last year amidst the pandemic to their second boy, Noah. Ben works at an African streaming video and satellite TV company, MultiChoice, as a senior product manager focused on content recommendations engines. He hopes to return to visit the United States with his family once the pandemic dies down.

Bhavna Chadalavada is a founding coach at Marlow, a professional development platform competing with companies like BetterUp. She has been working in the intersecting fields of coaching, leadership development consulting and strategy consulting since shortly after graduating, and is excited to have gotten her credential last year from the International Coaching Federation and to now coach and business-build full time. Bhavna coaches founders, C-suite leaders, VPs, directors and managers across various industries. She is based out of Orange County, Calif.

It is with sadness that I inform fellow alumni of the passing of **James "Jim" Pagels**, a wonderful student and writer, and a friend to so many Columbians across classes, on April 9, 2021. The Class of 2013 has gathered a few memories and words in tribute to Jim, a beloved member of our class. Longer tributes are in the online issue.

John F. Ready: "I met Jim in a floor hockey gym class our senior year. Rarely has there ever been such a genuine, warm teammate. We lost a great one, and I'll miss him."

Graham Pupo: "I was Jim's roommate during our first year at Columbia as transfer students. Due to our busy and divergent schedules, I remember times when we would offer each other quiet greetings as I left early for rowing practice just as Jim was getting back from studying all night at the library, like two ships passing. And though we rarely got into the big topics, what I do remember about Jim were the seemingly more mundane conversations we had, such as bonding over the deliciousness of the John Jay cafeteria chicken fries or our shared appreciation for Donald Glover's comedy troupe. While these might seem trivial, they are reminders that despite all his academic and professional success, Jim was a person who enjoyed the little

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things. I'm not sure what could be a better mark of a life well lived.

"Jim and I did not stay in touch after our first year at Columbia, but I admire his passion for life and commitment to everything he pursued. When I learned via LinkedIn that he was taking advanced studies in economics, a field he did not study at Columbia, I was surprised, but never in doubt that he would succeed. I am saddened to think that Jim passed away before he could realize his full potential. The lives of the people he would have touched later in life are at a loss without the richness he could have provided them.

"Goodbye, Jim. Thank you for teaching me so much about life. I am sorry I never told you so myself."

Jeremy Bleeker: "Jim was the type of person that you encounter all too rarely in life. He was funny, brilliant, curious, un-self-conscious, and utterly genuine and authentic. He did not change who he was based on people or circumstances. He was always just himself.

"I got to know Jim while we were starting out as staffers at *Spectator*. Invariably he was hard at work, writing or editing, or engaged in some passionate conversation about what that night's coverage would look like. His enthusiasm for whatever he was working on was infectious; he compelled you to care about the topic, and that passion came through as a hallmark of his writing.

"It was easy to become friends with Jim because he was so friendly

and outgoing — really, he became friends with you. During those times when we weren't in class or staying late at *Spec*, Jim was always down to hang out. Of course, one of his most fervent passions was board games. On rare occasions, Jim could convince a group to get together for games of Monopoly, which were simultaneously brutal and mesmerizing to behold.

"One of the memories I will cherish most from my time with Jim was the 2011 baseball playoffs, as our two beloved home teams, the Cardinals and the Rangers, finally met in the World Series. I had been watching the playoffs at Foley's Bar and Grill, well known as a Cardinals stronghold. In a spirit of fellowship and camaraderie, I asked Jim if he would be interested in catching some of the World Series games there. It was enemy territory, sure, but this was one of the great baseball meccas in the city.

"Well, true to form, Jim arrived at the packed bar fully decked out in Rangers blue and proceeded to loudly and unapologetically cheer for Ron Washington and his boys. And it was all very sociable: Being his usual chatty and outgoing self, Jim worked the room, sharing stories and stats, discussing the memorabilia lining the walls, but never once ceding an inch when the Rangers made a play in the field, got on base, scored or ended an inning.

"Jim Pagels was just a really fun hang. With his death, we have lost



DAVID BURSTEIN

Michelle Tew '15 (left) and May Thu Hnin '15 at the April 5 launch in New York City of Homiah, their direct-to-consumer business that brings Southeast Asian spices to America.

a brilliant voice, a sharp mind, a creative and dynamic thinker, and a person who contained the serious and the lighthearted in perfectly balanced measures.

"It is overwhelming to have to acknowledge that he is already gone."

David Fine: "I was truly saddened to hear of Jim's death. He was the exact sort of guy you'd hope that you'd meet at Columbia. He was super smart and opinionated, but he never went out of his way to make that evident to you. He had strong opinions about weird things like monetary policy, or whether or not defensive players should count toward points in fantasy football.

"Jim had a great sense of humor and possessed bottomless wit. I don't think he ever forgave me for writing a joke column for *Spectator* about 'becoming' a New York Giants football fan. We sparred with each other in the column's comments section, and he wrote to the editor-in-chief at the time, cc'ing me: 'I just think it's a massive journalistic injustice that *Spectator* isn't informing its readers that one of its biweekly columns is being penned by a clearly mentally deranged forsaker.'

"Though Jim will rightfully be remembered for his passions and for his loyalty to friend groups like those found at *Spectator*, it should also be noted that Jim possessed great range as an intellect and was a person with so many interests. He always had a well-founded position, but was happy to entertain that he could be wrong. No matter what, you were still friends with him at the end of any (sometimes heated) argument.

"It was no doubt to me or anyone else who followed him that when you checked in with him, Jim would

be doing something interesting and serious without an ounce of pretension in his professional life.

"Any young death is a tragedy, but his stings particularly so because Jim was destined to give so much back to our country and to our world. It's a cruel fate that the Class of 2013 faces a future without him."

John Kenney: "It's easy to say that Jim was one of the best people I met at Columbia. It's rare for someone to be so smart and so funny while also so down to Earth, so passionate while also so kind. But Jim was.

"I always admired that Jim seemed to view the 'breadth v. depth' dilemma as a personal challenge. He was interested in almost everything, and he knew a ton about everything that he was interested in. But Jim's brilliance was never proud or showy. Instead, it fueled his passion — and his willingness to bond over whatever you shared in common. No matter the topic, you knew that Jim was one of your most well informed and most opinionated friends.

"Fortunately, we overlapped in D.C. at various points after Columbia, which meant several nights of board games and beers. One of the last times that I saw Jim, we promised that we'd see each other again in D.C. soon. While I'm incredibly grateful that we stayed in touch after college, the fact that we were robbed of fulfilling that promise reminds me to never take anything for granted. In other words, I see it as a reminder to imitate Jim.

"Jim, you were a true friend. I'll miss you dearly."

We are deeply saddened by this loss and send our condolences and love to Jim's family and friends. We will miss Jim dearly.



SUSAN XIONG '15

Partying on May 31, 2020, at their Animal Crossing virtual five-year reunion on Low Steps on Karen Nan '15's island were (left to right) Nan, Michelle Lee '15, Susan Xiong '15 and Dorothy He '15.

2014

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I hope the Class of 2014 is doing well! Please feel free to send me notes for the future issues via the email above or the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Please submit photos directly to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

2015

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Hello, Class of 2015! I hope you have been staying safe and healthy. Here are some updates:

Julian Brave NoiseCat was named to the TIME100 Next list of emerging leaders. He is writing a book about contemporary Indigenous life in the United States and Canada, tentatively titled *We Survived the Night*.

Alyssa Menz has accepted a Ph.D. position at the Yale School of the Environment. She will begin her studies within the Yale Center for Business and the Environment in

August. Any Lions in New Haven should feel free to reach out!

Rachel Hainline will start an internal medicine residency at Tufts Medical Center.

Faith Williams is returning to Columbia for a pediatrics residency.

Alex Ngan matched into the residency in orthopedic surgery at Northwell Health - Long Island Jewish Medical Center (2021-26) and graduated from the UCSF School of Medicine in May. Alex will relocate to Williamsburg, Brooklyn, for residency starting in July!

Many of our fellow College and Engineering alums graduated from the Business School this year: **Jessica Chi**, **Jocelyn Bohn**, **Tony Hung SEAS'15**, **Ross Basri SEAS'15**, **Elena Holodny'14**, **Malida Tadesse'14**, **Albert Kao SEAS'11**, **Nupur Sutaria SEAS'12**, **Jeremy Cooper'17**, **Katie Barrall'14**, **Josephine Wei'13**, **Chris Vandenberg'12**, **Darren Chu SEAS'14** and **Tanvi Bhaskar'17**.

Adrian Silver writes, "I've been living in Central Harlem since late 2019 and love riding my electric bike to visit all our old haunts: Milano Market, The Hungarian Pastry Shop, Thai Market, Pisticci and so on. I recently started a job as head of business development at CodeGreen Solutions, a real estate sustainability consultancy, and also started teaching a course at GSAPP. Since the pandemic started, I've

done lots of yoga and picked up making cocktails. Hit me up if you're in the neighborhood!"

Michelle Tew and **May Hnin** "took the plunge!" Michelle says, "We quit our jobs and fronted personal savings to launch our bootstrapped, direct-to-consumer food business bringing Southeast Asian spices to America. We're obsessed with good food (shoutout to those suitemates who survived pungent cooking smells in Hartley). But beyond that, we're pumped to increase AAPI representation as well as work directly and equitably with small producers in Southeast Asia, including contested regions of Myanmar. We launched on Kickstarter on April 5! For details and to support us, check out homiah.com." (See nearby photo.)

As always, classmates want to hear from you! Please be sure to submit updates by email or by using the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2016

Lily Liu-Krason
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Hey, 2016. Quite a lot of updates this time around, so I'll keep my update short.

It's no question been a hard year for everyone and I have been super grateful to have amazing CC friends for support, inspiration and joy. I recently had a socially distanced meetup with **Peter Bailinson**, his boyfriend and **Lillian Chen'15** (see the nearby photo!). I also recently, with two Austrian friends and **Isabel Michaelides'17**, started a goulash food pop-up to raise money for Service Workers Coalition, a local mutual aid group helping essential workers during Covid-19. Follow us on Instagram at @heimwehnyc to support us or learn more about future pop-ups.

Without further ado, here is some news from classmates:

Angel Wang writes: "I'm thrilled to share that my partner, Ojas Mainkar, and I recently got engaged at the New York Botanical Garden in the presence of our families and **Bianca Capone** (see the nearby photo!). Who knew that a Coffee Meets Bagel date in Central Park would lead to a lifelong commitment more than three years later?

I'm a first-year Harvard Business School student after working in management consulting for two years and working on Facebook's Political Advertising team for the U.S. elections. I intend to continue working in tech, and trust and safety, after graduation, and am also considering entrepreneurship if my current startup goes well."

Anne Scotti writes: "I live in New York and have spent the past year DIYing, taking virtual Italian classes, baking (no banana bread or sourdough, however) and taking many a walk.

"Although the events of the past 12 months put a stop to things in so many ways, it also allowed me to reconnect with friends (there's really no excuse to not FT your friend in California when you also have to video call the ones who live a few subway stops away!), and for that I am grateful. Speaking of faraway friends, I was also lucky to get to see **Daniel Brovman** and **Peter Bailinson** in person over the holidays; both are doing well!

"Alongside my job, I've recently started work as a long-term substitute teacher at a public middle school and am considering graduate school.

"I had a lot of fun planning our late May/early June fifth reunion (can you believe?!) alongside fellow co-chair **Brandon Martinez Gonzalez** and the rest of the Reunion Committee. Please follow the reunion Instagram (@ccreunion2016). Stay tuned for follow-up!"

Jake Hoyle writes: "After graduation I decided to stay in NYC and pursue fencing full time. I qualified for the Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo. The last five years have been a steady, focused grind toward a goal that I've been eyeing for as long as I can remember. Along the way I won the USA Fencing National Championship, was ranked number 1 in the United States/top 10 in the world and have been regularly stopping by campus to go to Milano Market. I'm beyond excited to rep CU at the games this summer!"

From **Ellie Beckman**: "I've spent the last five years since graduation mainly as a producer in reality TV. Some shows I've worked on are *Deadliest Catch*, *The American Farm*, and a special for History Channel about the history of Hot Wheels. Currently, I'm producing a show for Discovery, *Homestead Rescue*, set to



Clockwise from bottom left, **Jessica Chi'15**, **Peter DeBlasi'15**, **Mihika Barua'15** and **Jocelyn Bohn'15** caught up on November 5 at The Heights during an informal get-together for "Double Lions" from the Business School.

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air later in the spring. After some soul searching and a stint in Paris as an English teacher, I've decided to switch careers and head to grad school to pursue a master's in marriage and family therapy. I'll attend The Wright Institute in Berkeley, Calif., this fall. Please reach out if you live in the Bay Area! I'll be new to the area and would love to connect."

Dani Lopez writes: "A little known fact about me is that I took a semester off between sophomore and junior year to live and work in China. CC made me question the meaning of life, of Columbia, of society, of 'success' and more. I thought a semester would be enough for me to figure that out, but five years after graduating, I still find myself grappling with those same questions."

"I've relied heavily on travel, eclectic classes and a nonconventional lifestyle to find answers to those questions. I've 'lived' out of a storage unit; pursued travel-centric careers; launched a side project to bring strangers together around intimate dinners; dabbled in the underground Brooklyn party scene; grappled with the carbon footprint and consumerism of my lifestyle; lived out of a van with four cross-generational adults; built a future of cities startup called Kibbo; found refuge from our scary, aggressive, judgment-filled culture through nonviolent communication; moved into an intentional co-living house in the Mission District; and SO.

MUCH. MORE. My ground-ing force through this whirlwind of change remains my family and Columbia friends, so thank you all!

"Even if we barely spoke back in the day, you're welcome to DM me to talk about those issues. You can also hit me up if you want to talk about carbon neutrality and how technology will reshape cities (the main focus of my career). Find me at @daniexplorestheworld."

News is welcome by email or by using the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note!

2017

Carl Yin
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Here is the latest news from classmates.

In January, **Max Fiast** LAW'20 started a job as a litigation associate at Mayer Brown in its New York office. He was to be sworn in to the New York Bar in April.

Pegah Kamrani, a fourth-year dental student at UNC Chapel Hill, received a University Fellowship from The Ohio State University for her first year of orthodontic residency, which will start this summer. Pegah expressed gratitude for her academic and athletic experiences while at Columbia College, as they were instrumental in helping her get this award.



Angel Wang '16 (center) became engaged to Ojas Mainkar (right) on March 20, 2020, at the New York Botanical Garden. Friend Bianca Capone '16 joined them for the special occasion.



PETER BAILINSON '16

Enjoying a socially distanced hangout on March 28, 2020, at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art were (clockwise from bottom left) Peter Bailinson '16, Bailinson's boyfriend, Lillian Chen '15 and Lily Liu-Krason '16.

After helping to win the general election in NY-16 and successfully electing freshman Congressman Jamaal Bowman (D-N.Y.) to office, **Bianca Guerrero** joined Make the Road New York, an organization dedicated to organizing immigrant communities, to run the statewide advocacy campaign Excluded Workers Fund. The campaign, backed by a coalition of 200 organizations across the state, is calling for the governor, Senate majority leader and assembly speaker to create a first-in-the-nation fund to provide comprehensive economic assistance for undocumented and formerly incarcerated New Yorkers who are excluded from state unemployment benefits and federal stimulus checks.

Bianca moved to Brooklyn in February and remains committed to organizing New Yorkers and electing progressive people of color to NYC's local, state and federal offices.

Ethan Wu shares, "Let me preface this by saying that I currently live in Dallas. More and more, I realize that the issues that impact our daily lives are issues that arise out of profound neglect and lack of care for each other. Case in point is the recent 'snowpocalypse,' in which much of the state was without electricity and running water for a week or longer due to lack of oversight or foresight by the state government. People in positions of power, frankly, do not care to set up an environment in which all of us can thrive, preferring to provide benefits and kickbacks to only those close to them. Is this a result of our societal

values? Is it a result of racism? Is it a result of capitalism? To me, it seems the only solution for the individual is self-protection."

Thanks to those who wrote in this time! Share your news with me via email, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2018

Alexander Birkel and Maleeha Chida
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Antonia Georgieva and Kosta Karakashyan '19 collaborated recently on an immersive performance, *KITCHEN*, which combines dance, theater and cuisine and sheds light on what goes on behind the scenes in a professional kitchen. The show premiered at HRC Culinary Academy in Sofia, Bulgaria, in February and continued with limited runs in April, May and June. (See the nearby photo of the two at rehearsal.)

At the time of publication, **Alan Lin** said he might have been kicked out of the United States to spend a year in drizzling, foggy London, living near ... Harrods. Or he might have gotten that H1B lottery he had been blabbing about since his glorious days at John Jay 10.

It's easy to send in your news and updates: Shoot us an email, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.



2019

Tj Aspen Givens and Emily Gruber
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We hope that the Class of 2019 is well as we head into a brighter summer. It was great to hear from you, and we can't wait to reunite on Morningside Heights or on Zoom soon.

Zak Aldridge shares: "A two-week visit to Kathmandu has turned into a one-year stay with the help of the Covid-19 lockdown barring my exit. I didn't want to leave anyway. I'm happier than ever, working on the heart and following my bliss and the course of the river. Peace to everyone."

Michael Crapotta is an investment banking senior analyst in Citigroup's Transportation group. Since graduation, he has worked at the firm's Tribeca location, covering shipping and aviation (airline and lessor) clients across the Americas, Europe, the Middle East and Africa, and Asia-Pacific regions. Most recently, Michael earned a coveted "Deal of the Year" award as an integral member of the deal team for an aircraft engine lease securitization completed at the onset of the pandemic.

Lindsay Kim and Jenny Wang are first-year medical students at SUNY Downstate College of Medicine (see the nearby photo!).

Itamar Klein joined the Army last year and is at the Army Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga.'s Bravo Company 005-21.

Brent Morden continues to chip away at his creative journey. In September he joined the team at From Stage to Screen Performing Arts Academy, on Long Island, where he teaches voice and musical theater classes. Most recently Brent composed and music-directed *INFERNAL*, a rock musical set in the world of Dante's *Inferno* (Lit Hum lives on!). See more at brentmordenmusic.com and get in touch with Brent at brentmorden@gmail.com.

Daniel Parks recently finished writing his first novel. Its theme contemplates the idea of adventure as it functions in modernity and draws inspiration from *Don Quixote*. As he seeks to publish, Daniel says that any advice from experienced writers, literary agents or publishers would be immensely appreciated (daniel.parks@columbia.edu). Daniel has been living and working in Australia and will matriculate at the Law School this fall. He continues his advocacy work through the Philanthropy Club for the CLS LEAD Fellowship Program.

Alexander Rabinowitz is a second-year at Harvard Law and will be a summer associate in the New York office of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett. One silver lining of taking classes remotely from Manhattan, he says, is that he regularly sees his Columbia classmates, albeit socially distanced and previously frigid from cold-weather outdoor dining.

Bonnie Schipper is pursuing a J.D./M.B.A. at Emory. She recently earned second place in the national John Lewis Racial Justice Case



SOPHIE ELDRED

Lindsay Kim '19 (left) and Jenny Wang '19 are both studying at SUNY Downstate College of Medicine; on November 20 they took a break to pose in front of its School of Public Health.

Competition; Bonnie recommended a revamped supplier diversity program at Hewlett-Packard that would create opportunities for minority-owned businesses to enter their supply chain. She will help the company implement the plan during the next few months and is excited to see the progress it makes towards racial justice.

Aaron Smithson started a dual master's in architecture and urban planning at the Harvard Graduate School of Design.

We would be pleased to get your news and updates by email, or via the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note!

2020

Stephen Cone and Santiago Tobar Potes
jsc2247@columbia.edu
stp2120@columbia.edu

Last fall, **Brianna Alico** started a Ph.D. in the Biological & Biomedical Sciences program at Harvard Medical School and will get married later this year to Rui Diaz-Pacheco '18.

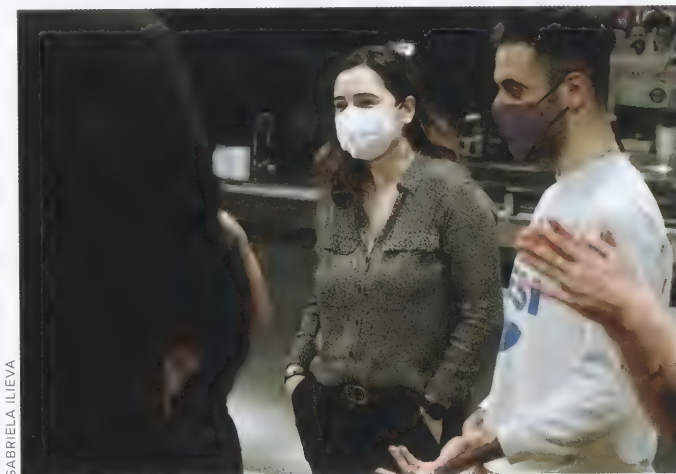
Electra Williams is an associate analyst at Fitch Ratings on the Commercial Mortgage-Backed Securities Team.

Alexis Lehmann has started a role as the strategic projects coordinator for Ed Farm in Birmingham, Ala., a transformational program dedicated to increasing K-12 and

postsecondary attainment, eliminating educational inequality, closing the tech skills gap and promoting innovation in education. Ed Farm is working alongside Apple and Southern Company to build the Propel Center, a physical and virtual campus that will revolutionize historically Black colleges and universities. Propel Center expands Ed Farm's mission throughout the HBCU network to build generations of Black leaders who advance equity and justice through technology, entrepreneurship, education and social impact. If you or your company are interested in learning more or getting involved with Ed Farm or the Propel Center, please send an email to alexis@edfarm.org or info@propelcenter.org. Alexis says thank you!

Christina Monnen lives in Boston and is an associate researcher for *NOVA*, the renowned science documentary program on PBS. Her team recently received the prestigious duPont-Columbia award for its timely and diligent reporting in the film *Decoding Covid-19*. Dr. Anthony Fauci described it as a "masterful hour" that explained the science behind how the virus works and how it could be fought with a vaccine: pbs.org/wgbh/nova/video/decoding-covid-19.

Please send your updates to us by email or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note, and we will share them in a future issue!



GABRIELA ILIEVA

Antonia Georgieva '18 (left) and Kosta Karakashyan '19 rehearsing their immersive performance, *KITCHEN*, at the HRC Culinary Academy in Sofia, Bulgaria, on March 1.

obituaries

Editor's note: In recognition of the toll taken by the Covid-19 pandemic, CCT will continue to acknowledge those in our community who have died from complications of the virus in our online feature "Lions We've Lost" (college.columbia.edu/cct). Their obituaries are marked with a ♦ symbol.

1947

Stanley D. Robinson, attorney, White Plains, N.Y., on December 6, 2020. After graduating Phi Beta Kappa, Robinson was editor of the *Law Review* and graduated from the Law School in 1949. He served as an ensign in the Navy, then attended Dartmouth College and Harvard Business School. Robinson was an assistant U.S. attorney in the Southern District of New York before joining Kaye, Scholer, Fierman, Hays & Handler, where he became a partner,

sat on the executive committee, and headed the litigation and antitrust departments. He successfully represented Xerox Corp. in what was, at the time, the longest civil trial in the history of the federal courts. His passions included global travel, wine collecting, baking bread, old movies, opera and the St. Louis Cardinals, as well as spending time with his family. Robinson was predeceased by his wife of 64 years, Janet; and is survived by his son, James, and his wife, Jenny; daughters, Nancy and Susan; and one granddaughter. Memorial contributions may be made to the Equal Justice Initiative (ej.org) or Meals on Wheels America (mealsonwheelsamerica.org).

1955

Ronald M. Cowan, psychology and statistics researcher, Seattle, on

July 20, 2020. Cowan was editorial editor of *Spectator*, writing during his senior year about the Bicentennial, women in the dormitories, University research and more. He earned an M.A. in 1958 from GSAS. Cowan and his wife, Erica, moved to California after graduation, where he became a distinguished researcher in psychology and statistics. After many years in San Francisco, where he and his wife became close to intellectuals such as Lawrence Ferlinghetti, they moved to Seattle. Those who knew Cowan knew a person of grace, astonishing intellect and deep concern for roommates, friends and the community. In addition to his wife, Cowan is survived by his children, Maya and Mischa; and one grandchild.

Daniel P. De Palma, advertising and marketing executive, college professor, Spartanburg, S.C., on

November 26, 2020. Born and raised in Mt. Vernon, N.Y., De Palma earned an M.S. in 1956 from the Business School and a J.D. in 1960 from New York Law School. He served as a captain in the Marine Corps and worked for many years in marketing and advertising in NYC before becoming CEO of De Palma & Hogan Advertising in White Plains, N.Y. More recently he taught business administration at Pace University, Shepherd College, the University of Florida and City College (Gainesville, Fla.). He also served as Guardian Ad Litem, assigned by a judge to help anyone who cannot come to court, to protect their rights and interests in a case. De Palma was predeceased by his brother, Nicholas; and is survived by his wife, Kay; stepson, Scott, and his wife, Kim; stepdaughter, Tristram, and her husband, Carl; and two step-grandsons.

George Segal '55, Versatile Actor of Virginia Woolf Fame

George Segal '55 was a commanding presence on stage and screen in a career that spanned 56 years and myriad acting roles. His versatility was remarkable: Early in his career he was nominated for an Academy Award for an intensely dramatic role as a young professor in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*; decades later he was nominated for two Golden Globe Awards for portraying a rakish magazine publisher in the ensemble TV series *Just Shoot Me!*

Though he never rose to the pantheon of Hollywood actors, Segal was rarely out of work. In a 1998 interview with *The New York Times*, he observed, "I'm like a cork in the water, you know? I keep bobbing up in all sorts of places."

His longevity was no accident. Mike Nichols, director of *Virginia Woolf*, put it succinctly in a 1965 interview: "What you get with George is masculinity and sensitivity, plus a brain."

Segal was born in New York City and raised in Great Neck, N.Y. After transferring from Haverford to the College, he majored in theater and

dramatic arts. He died on March 23, 2021, in Santa Rosa, Calif., and was working on the TV comedy series *The Goldbergs* right up until his passing.

Segal was an unpaid ticket-taker, usher and vendor at Circle in the Square, a noted Off-Broadway theater, before appearing there in Eugene O'Neill's *The Iceman Cometh* in 1956. He married his first wife, Marion Sobol, onstage on a Monday night when the theater was dark, and shortly thereafter was drafted into the Army.

After being discharged, Segal was cast in his first film roles in *The Young Doctors* and *The Longest Day* and appeared in an Off-Broadway production of *The Knack*. That comedy was directed by Nichols, who subsequently cast him in *Virginia Woolf* alongside Richard Burton, Elizabeth Taylor and Sandy Dennis. All four were nominated for Academy Awards, with both women winning.

Segal's gift for comedy and social satire took his career in a different direction shortly thereafter, and he was among Hollywood's busiest actors in the 1970s. He starred in

some of the decade's most noted films: playing a man trying to rid himself of his mother in *Where's Poppa?*; a nebbishy writer involved with a prostitute played by Barbra Streisand in *The Owl and the Pussycat*; a divorce lawyer who tries to win his wife back after she catches him in bed with his secretary in *Blume in Love*; a married businessman who takes up with a divorcee in *A Touch of Class*; a struggling gambler who keeps trying for the big score in *California Split*; and a man who loses his job and turns to crime (along with his wife, played by Jane Fonda) to maintain an upscale lifestyle in *Fun With Dick and Jane*.

During the next two decades Segal appeared in numerous lesser-known films, as well as made-for-TV movies and series. But his career took an upswing and he became known to a new generation of fans when he was featured in *Just Shoot Me!* (1997–2003) and *The Goldbergs* (2013–present).

Segal said of his lengthy and successful career: "I don't ever know how it happens. Sometimes it's being in the right place at the right time,



sometimes you're just the guy they want. It's impossible to explain. This is a real gambler's business, acting. It's a crapshoot, and you keep stepping up to the table and hope that your number comes up. Or it's like being a used car in a used car lot. You're just waiting for somebody to come over and kick your tires. You've got to be crazy to do this."

Segal's marriage to Sobol ended in divorce in 1983. His second wife, Linda Rogoff, died in 1996. In addition to his wife, Sonia, he is survived by his daughters from his first marriage, Elizabeth and Polly; and three stepchildren.

—Alex Sachare '71



OTHER DEATHS REPORTED

Columbia College today also has learned of the following deaths. Complete obituaries will be published in an upcoming issue, pending receipt of information.

- 1945 John M. Khoury, textile manufacturer, Harrington Park, N.J., on March 7, 2020.
- 1954 Robert A. Weber, entrepreneur, Kingston, Mass., on February 11, 2021.
- 1955 Wallace M. Previl, Naval officer, Alexandria, Va., on November 13, 2019.
- 1956 Fred I. Lewis, Great Neck, N.Y., on September 22, 2019.
Edward H. Schoenhart, plant manager, Freeland, Wash., on December 8, 2020.
Stanley D. Stier, physician, patient advocate and medical director, Delray Beach, Fla., on April 23, 2021.
- 1957 Alan L. Gordons, psychiatrist, New York City, on February 27, 2021.
Arthur T. Meyerson, psychiatrist, New York City and Shelter Island, N.Y., on January 27, 2021.
- 1958 Sheldon B. Cousin, engineer and chief information officer, Edgewater, N.J., on March 17, 2021.
Mark D. Luftig, retired investment banker, Chapel Hill, N.C., on May 1, 2021.
Howard Winell, market strategist, New York City, on December 29, 2020.
- 1959 Clive Chajet, designer, New York City, on February 3, 2021.
Georges L. de Gramont, retired executive, Cliffside Park, N.J., on March 20, 2021.

Jerry Goodisman, chemistry professor, Syracuse, N.Y., on May 2, 2021.

Frederick Lorber, Stockton, Calif., on February 24, 2021.

J. Peter Rosenfeld, psychology professor, Glencoe, Ill., on February 16, 2021.

Raphael "Ray" I. Schenk, engineer and furniture manufacturer, Menlo Park, Calif., on February 7, 2021.

1960 + Victor Chang, Walnut Grove, Calif., on October 30, 2020.

1961 Anthony W. Adler, West Palm Beach, Fla., on May 4, 2021.

Nathaniel Reichel, cardiologist, Northport, N.Y., on March 6, 2021.

1962 Stuart M. Case, attorney and judge, Mystic, Conn., on January 12, 2021.

1966 Frank B. Newell, attorney, Little Rock, Ark., on May 9, 2021.

1967 Justin C. Malewezi, former vice president of Malawi, Lilangwe, Malawi, on April 17, 2021.

1968 + Frederick Allan Kneale, Holiday, Fla., on December 18, 2020.

1971 John W. Borek, artist, bookseller and playwright, Rochester, N.Y., on April 2, 2021.

J. Hallock "Hall" Northcott, corporate advocate, Kensington, Md., on February 5, 2021.

1972 Robert K. "Kayo" Hull, attorney and mediator, Penn Yan, N.Y., on March 16, 2021.

1984 Eric L. Hansen, retired musician, New York City, on April 27, 2021.

1985 George L. "Jorge" Martinez, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., on December 18, 2020.

1956

John C. Garnjost, businessman and rowing official, Bluffton, S.C., on January 5, 2021. After graduation, Garnjost was an Air Force pilot 1956–59, serving in Japan and Taiwan, then earned an M.B.A. from the Business School in 1961. He spent 24 years at the NYC corporate headquarters of Bristol-Myers before becoming the company's managing director, Malaysia, and president and general manager, Taiwan. Garnjost was a member of Columbia's heavyweight crew 1954–56 and maintained a life-long devotion to rowing, officiating in the United States and internationally, including at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. In 2013, he received the Dick Alcock Award for 50 years of Service and Dedication to U.S. Rowing. He also received the prestigious Olympic Order from the International

Olympic Committee for outstanding merit in the cause of world sport for his work on behalf of rowing in Taiwan. Garnjost is survived by his wife of 47 years, Janet; and daughters, Alison, and Valerie and her husband, Matthew Lacy. Memorial contributions may be made to the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force (mightyeighth.org) or to USRowing (usrowing.org).

Peter Andrews Poole, foreign service officer, professor and writer, Sugar Hill, N.H., on October 4, 2020. Born in NYC, Poole grew up in Weston, Conn., and graduated from Holderness (N.H.) School. He earned an M.A. at Yale and a Ph.D. at American University. Following service in the New York National Guard, Poole was appointed a foreign service officer in 1959 and was posted to Cambodia and Thailand. He then taught political science at

Howard, the Naval War College and Old Dominion before joining the CIA as an analyst. Poole was also a prolific writer, publishing cultural and political studies of Southeast Asia, China and Eastern Europe as well as *The Silver Heron*, an audio book based on his foreign service experience. He was predeceased by his first wife, of 49 years, Rosemary Sullivan. He is survived by his second wife, Alice (née Bowdoin), with whom he enjoyed retirement in Sugar Hill; twin brother, Frederick King Poole, and his wife, Marta Szabo; and numerous cousins, step-children and step-grandchildren.

1957

Anthony G. Lubowe, engineer, San Marcos, Calif., on January 20, 2020. Born in the Bronx on December 21, 1937, Lubowe earned three degrees

from Columbia Engineering: a B.S. in mechanical engineering in 1958, an M.S. in engineering mechanics in 1959 and an Eng.Sc.D in engineering in 1959. He had a long and distinguished career with AT&T Bell Labs, where he worked on Telstar 1 communication satellite projects, *Apollo* missions and microelectronics research. Lubowe was a member of Sigma Xi Scientific Research Honor Society and Phi Beta Kappa Academic Honor Society. He is survived by his wife, Joan BC'59, GSAS'61; son, David; daughter, Jennifer; and four grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association (alz.org).

Edward A. Weiner, pathologist, Bethesda, Md., on April 20, 2020. After graduation from the Boston University School of Medicine, Weiner served as a pathologist at Fort Benning, Ga., 1963–65. He was

chief resident of pathology at NYU Medical Center and a fellow at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center's cytopathology department under Dr. Leopold Koss. Weiner founded the cytopathology department at NYU Medical Center and was its first chief, and also was chief of pathology at Beekman Downtown Hospital. He was one of the most effective advocates of non-smoking laws in the 1980s as VP of the New York Board of the American Cancer Society. Weiner is survived by his daughter, Meredith Cardenas, and her husband, Eduardo; son, Jed '95, and his wife, Veronique; and four grandchildren.

1958

William Esberg, teacher, Long Branch, N.J., on December 10, 2020. After graduation, Esberg returned to Asbury Park H.S., his alma mater, where he was a popular English teacher 1963–90. He taught with honesty, humor and a sawed-off plastic baseball bat that he pounded on a desk if he deemed an answer particularly subpar. He received letters from former students literally until the day he died, describing his impact on them in their development as writers and as a personal role model.

A noted bridge player and teacher, Esberg fulfilled a lifelong dream in 2005 when he won the Silver Ribbon Pairs at the North American Bridge Championships and thus achieved the American Contract Bridge League's highest rank, Grand Life Master. Predeceased by his sister, Carol, Esberg is survived by several nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to Literacy New Jersey (literacynj.org).

David J. Rothman, history professor, New York City, on August 30, 2020. Born on April 30, 1937, in Brooklyn, Rothman earned a Ph.D. from Harvard in 1964 and joined the faculty at Columbia as an assistant professor. He became professor of history in 1967 and was presented the Albert J. Beveridge Award in 1971 for his book *The Discovery of the Asylum: Social Order and Disorder in the New Republic*. In 1982, Rothman became the Bernard Schoenberg Professor of Social Medicine at P&S and director, Center for the Study of Society and Medicine. He published many books, including *The Willowbrook Wars: Bringing the Mentally Disabled into the Community* (1984) with his wife, Sheila Rothman GSAS'60, and *Strangers at the Bedside: A History of How Law and Bioethics Transformed*

Medical Decision Making (1991), as well as numerous articles in medical journals and the popular media. In 2003, Rothman became president of the Institute on Medicine as a Profession. In 2018, he was appointed chief of the newly created Division on Social Medicine and Professionalism, a position he held until 2020. Rothman is survived by his wife of 60 years; son, Matthew GSAS'94, and his wife, Nancy Katz; daughter, Micol PS'98, and her husband, Salim Haj; and two grandchildren.

Albert J. Sabatini, psychiatrist, New York City, on October 29, 2020. Born in the Bronx, Sabatini served in the Army at Fort Bliss, Texas, and earned an M.D. from the University of Bologna, Italy. He began his career at Bellevue Psychiatric Hospital with a psychiatric residency and rose to become medical director, a position he held for eight years. Sabatini was associate attending psychiatrist at NYU Medical Center, staff psychiatrist at the Manhattan VA Hospital and research associate professor of psychiatry at the NYU School of Medicine. He also maintained a private practice in NYC for more than 50 years and was recognized for his work treating the city's homeless mentally ill. He

sat on many committees, including the New York State Commission on Quality of Care Task Force on Criminal Justice and Mental Health. A connoisseur of opera and musical theater, Sabatini was a lover of crossword puzzles, Italy and a good Negroni. He is survived by his sister, Olga Welsh; one nephew; and three nieces. Memorial contributions may be made to the Floating Hospital, Attn.: Sam Lamont, PO Box 3391, New York, NY 10163-3391, or floatinghospital.org.

Arthur H. Siegel, accountant, New York City, on August 11, 2020. Siegel was president of the Pre-Engineering Society until he changed his major to economics. He also was advertising manager of *Spectator* and a member of Phi Sigma Delta, where he made lifelong friendships with Fred Knauer '59 and Ira Jolles '59. Siegel graduated second in his class at the Business School in 1960, was a Newington Scholar, a member of Beta Sigma Gamma and the treasurer of *Graduate Business News*. Siegel joined Pricewaterhouse (now PricewaterhouseCoopers) in 1960 and worked in its New York, Long Island and Boston offices. He was an engagement partner in Boston, became national director of accounting services and then vice chairman of audit. Siegel was a

Public Health Pioneer Julius Schachter '57

For six decades, **Julius Schachter '57** studied chlamydia-related diseases and the bacteria that cause them, as well as their diagnosis and treatment. Thanks in large part to his work, trachoma, an eye infection that until 1990 was one of the world's leading infectious causes of blindness, is expected to be eliminated as a public health issue by 2030.

Schachter, who closed his laboratory at UC San Francisco last summer, says he came upon the focus of his lifelong work largely by circumstance.

"I hadn't planned to do research on STDs," he said in a Class Note sent to *CCT* last year, "but serendipity always plays a role, and living in San Francisco through the Summer(s) of Love provided plenty of opportunity. Chlamydial infections were relatively new, and

this gave us chances to make real contributions to public health."

Schachter, who lived in Corte Madera, Calif., with a second home in Nussloch, Germany, died on December 20, 2020, due to Covid-19.

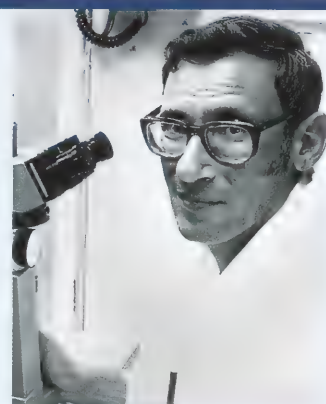
Schachter was born on June 1, 1936, in the Bronx and was the first in his family to attend college. A chemistry major, he earned a master's in physiology from Hunter College in 1960 and a Ph.D. in bacteriology from UC Berkeley in 1965. His first academic job was as an assistant research microbiologist at UC San Francisco, and he stayed there for 55 years.

Studies in Schachter's laboratory focused on the epidemiology and clinical manifestations of chlamydial infections. Schachter recognized that chlamydia was not just an ocular or sexually transmitted disease,

but also a systemic one that caused pneumonia in newborns. As a result, screening pregnant women for chlamydia and treating the infected women has become the standard of care in the United States and many other countries.

His laboratory also produced a proof of concept study showing the effectiveness of community-wide treatment of trachoma with azithromycin. This is now the linchpin of an effort sponsored by the World Health Organization at eliminating the disease.

After closing his research lab, Schachter kept his academic appointment and planned to continue analyzing data and writing up his last few studies. "Looking back, I recall the usual academic frustrations, getting funding and so on, but



all in all, it has been a blast," he said of his career.

Schachter was predeceased by his first wife, Joyce Poynter. He is survived by his second wife, Elisabeth Scheer; daughter, Sara '91, and her husband, Brent Bessire '91; sons, Marc and Alexander; brother, Norbert '60; and three grandsons.

—Alex Sachare '71



Submit an Obituary

Please go to college.columbia.edu/cct/contact-us.



Arthur H. Siegel '58

member of the U.S. and World Firm's Management Committees. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Eleanor Novick; daughters, Joan and Linda; son, Mark '89, and his wife, Shana Schiffman BC'89; and six grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the National MS Society (nationalmssociety.org).

1959

Thomas P. Bilbao, retired banker, Maryville, Tenn., on December 21, 2020. Born in New York City on February 21, 1938, Bilbao played football at Stuyvesant H.S. and for the Lions, where he made lifelong friendships with teammates Ted Graskie '59 and George Spelios '59, with whom he enjoyed many Homecomings and reunions. A member of Naval ROTC, he was commissioned as an ensign and promoted to lieutenant, stationed in San Diego. After leaving the Navy, Bilbao began a career in banking while earning an M.B.A. from NYU. In 1975 he was admitted into the Advanced Management Program at Harvard, after which he worked at the Connecticut Bank and Trust, Buffalo Savings Bank, Albany Savings Bank and Westport Bank and Trust in positions from chief operating officer to president. He retired in 2004 and moved with his wife, Kathleen, to Maryville, where they enjoyed living in the mountains. In addition to his wife, Bilbao is survived by his son, Christopher; daughter, Kathy, and her husband, John Walker; and five grandchildren.

Robert M. Burd, physician, Lakewood Ranch, Fla., on October 31, 2019. After graduation from P&S in 1963, Burd joined with Dr. Milton Cooper and built a thriving practice,

now known as the Medical Specialists of Fairfield (Conn.), and was a distinguished physician in Bridgeport and Fairfield for 48 years. As well as caring for internal medicine patients, he specialized in hematology and oncology, was chief of the Department of Hematology at St. Vincent's Medical Center in Bridgeport for more than 20 years and was affiliated with Bridgeport Hospital. Burd is survived by his wife of 55 years, Alice; sons, Russell and Stephen; two granddaughters; and brother, Murray. Memorial contributions may be made to The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (lls.org).

Vincent C. Gerosa, sales executive, Garden City, N.Y., on November 20, 2020. Born on May 18, 1937, in New York City, Gerosa grew up in Inwood and graduated from Manhattan Prep H.S. At the College, he was a member of Naval ROTC and Beta Theta Pi, and a varsity swimmer. After serving on the *U.S.S. Waldron*, he earned an M.B.A. in 1963 from the Business School. Gerosa was a sales executive with the New York Telephone Co., NYNEX and Verizon for more than 35 years. He remained active in the Naval Reserves, working in Naval intelligence, before retiring as a captain in 1997. Gerosa is survived by his wife of 50 years, Joan; daughter, Patricia, and her husband, Michael O'Brien; son, Vincent, and his wife, Chris; sister, Maria Gerosa Bulis; and five grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research (michaeljfox.org).

Peter F. Muehlbauer, retired cardiologist, Somers, N.Y., on November 9, 2020. Born on August 14, 1939, in Brooklyn, Muehlbauer graduated from P&S in 1963 and served as a physician in the Air Force based in Michigan during the Vietnam War. He cared for patients in private practice for many years before joining Westmed in White Plains, N.Y., from which he retired. He lived in Ossining, N.Y., and Chappaqua, N.Y., for many years before moving to Somers in 2017. Muehlbauer is survived by his wife, Judith; son, Matthew; daughter, Lisa Oraziotti; and four grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association (heart.org).

1960

Gary A. Hershendorfer, retired economist, Aventura, Fla., on October 28, 2020. Raised in Syracuse, Hershendorfer majored in history and spent four years as an officer in the Navy aboard the *U.S.S. Franklin D. Roosevelt*. He earned a master's in economics from UC Berkeley and spent 30 years as chief economist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in San Francisco. He transferred to the Corps's New York office in 1996, where he retired as chief economist of the North Atlantic Division, and four years later moved to Florida.



Gary A. Hershendorfer '60

Hershendorfer's passions were skiing, tennis, yoga, painting, Broadway theater, art, politics and his involvement with the Columbia College Alumni Representative Committee and alumni events. He is survived by his daughters, Alexandra Colacito '92 and Mary; brother, Victor; and three grandchildren.

◆ **Stephen C. Lerner**, rabbi, New York City, on January 27, 2021. A graduate of Bronx Science, Rabbi Lerner majored in history, was editorials editor at *Spectator* and graduated Phi Beta Kappa. He studied ancient history at the University of Iowa before attending The Rabbinical School at the Jewish Theological Seminary. Ordained in 1967, Rabbi Lerner increased the Hebrew school hours at Temple Israel of Riverhead, N.Y., and brought the synagogue into the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. Rabbi Lerner was a leader of the movement to make Conservative Judaism egalitarian, expanding women's roles starting in the early 1970s at Town & Village, where he also founded the Center for

Conversion to Judaism, converting more than 1,800 students. He later was rabbi at the Jewish Community of West Hempstead, N.Y., and Temple Emanuel of Ridgely Park, N.J., now known as Kanfei Shahar. He endowed a fund at the Spectator Publishing Co., some of which will be used for an annual Stephen C. Lerner Award for a student reporter for outstanding investigative or data journalism. Rabbi Lerner is survived by his wife, Anne; brother, Irwin LAW'57, and his wife, Doris; son, Rabbi David, and his wife, Sharon Levin; daughter, Rahel Lerner '00 and her husband, Adam Gregerman; and five grandchildren.

Donald F. Patterson, textile manufacturer, New York City, on June 27, 2020. Born on August 31, 1938, Patterson attended the High School of Performing Arts, where his parents were teachers, and played tennis at Columbia. After serving in the National Guard, he owned and operated Desire Mills in Paterson, N.J. Following a long career in the textile industry, Patterson started a career in furniture sales and then in commercial real estate. Predeceased by his brothers, George and Jerry, and his son, Michael, Patterson is survived by his wife, Sherry; son, Dan; daughters, Gena Krug and her husband, Mike, and Chrissy Anderson and her husband, Jack; sister, Lynn; and three grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (mskcc.org).

◆ **Eckehard P. Simon**, professor of German, Lexington, Mass., on May 2, 2020. Simon entered the College as a recent immigrant from East Germany with a far better command of German and Russian than English, yet was awarded Phi Beta Kappa. He earned an M.A. and a Ph.D. from Harvard before joining its German department, where he taught for 45 years and became the Victor S. Thomas Professor of Germanic Languages and Literatures. His special interests were medieval European literature (1100-1250). Simon's teaching of both undergraduate and graduate students

focused on two fields: the German medieval court and its literature, and the emergence of theater and performance in medieval German settings. He published six books and numerous essays and did extensive work identifying medieval manuscripts at Houghton Library, Harvard's primary repository for rare books and manuscripts. Simon is survived by his wife, Eileen BC'58; sons, Anders, Matthew and Frederick; and sisters, Hannelore Rogers and Gundula Lee. Memorial contributions may be made to research on aphasic language disorders, which afflicted Simon following a 2014 medical procedure.

1962

John A. Istvan, petroleum engineer, Spring, Texas, on September 28, 2020. Born on May 23, 1939, in McKeesport, Pa., Istvan was an Eagle Scout and an altar boy who lettered in football, basketball and baseball at East McKeesport H.S. A geology major, Istvan drilled and fracked oil, gas and salt wells in New York, Virginia, Ohio, Alabama, Texas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Arizona and California; other projects took him to Saudi Arabia, Armenia, the Republic of Georgia, Thailand, Venezuela, Mexico and Canada. Istvan and his wife of 60 years, Frances, were founding members of Christ the Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Spring, and he also was involved in community service organizations. In addition to his wife, Istvan is survived by his sons, Ron and his wife, Eva, and Bruce and his wife, Alicia; daughter, Monica, and her husband, Erik; sisters, Virginia, Mary Jo and Kathy, and Kathy's husband, C.J.; and four grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society fund in Istvan's name (bit.ly/2JXjICP), or Christ the Good Shepherd Catholic Church (cgsc.church).

♦ **Ralph D. Kopperman**, mathematics professor, Pearl River, N.Y., on February 6, 2021. Born on February 17, 1942, in New York City, Kopperman graduated from Forest Hills H.S. and earned a Ph.D. in mathematics in 1965 from MIT. He also earned an M.A. in 1984 in psychology from CCNY. Kopperman began his teaching career at the University of Rhode Island and in 1967 joined the faculty at CCNY, where he stayed until his 2013



Ralph D. Kopperman '62

retirement as mathematics department chair. He started in academia as a logician but changed disciplines to topology in the late 1970s and wrote or co-authored more than 75 academic papers and a graduate textbook, *Model Theory and its Applications*. In addition to his wife, Constance, Kopperman is survived by his brother, Paul; son, David, and his wife, Yesenia; and daughters, Susan Picciano, Leah BC'89 and her wife, Valerie Lieber, Amy Picciano and her husband, Mark McIntyre, and Gail Picciano. Memorial contributions may be made to CCNY (giving.ccny.cuny.edu/page.aspx?pid=298); select "Division of Science" in the designation menu and note "for the Math Department Discretionary Fund in memory of Prof. Ralph Kopperman" in the Comments box), or mail to The Foundation for City College, 160 Convent Ave., Shephard Hall 154, New York, NY 10031 with the same comment.

1964

♦ **William M. "Bill" Davis**, social justice activist, New York City, on January 23, 2021. Davis grew up on a 49-acre farm in rural Pitcher, N.Y., the oldest of seven children who all worked the farm to supplement the family income. After graduating with a degree in psychology, he worked for the NYC Department of Welfare but was soon drafted into the Army and stationed at a military hospital in Germany. After discharge, Davis returned to the Department of Welfare and became a caseworker, working with adult, family and homeless populations. Upon his retirement in 1995, he was the tuberculosis unit supervisor at the Bellevue Hospital men's shelter. Davis was a fixture in the trade union movement and an active member of

the Communist Party USA, where he was elected to the National Board and National Committee. He was also active in the Working Families Party, Left Labor Forum and Veterans for Peace. Davis was predeceased by his first wife, Joan Feder SEAS'65, and is survived by his second wife, Esther Moroze; daughter, Angela '92; stepsons, Marc Auerbach and Dan Auerbach; as well as six siblings. Memorial contributions may be made to People's World (peoplesworld.org), Veterans for Peace NYC Chapter 34 (veteransforpeace.org) or the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research (michaeljfox.org).

1966

Nicholas R. Weiskopf, attorney and educator, New York City, on January 19, 2021. A lifelong resident of Manhattan, Weiskopf graduated magna cum laude in 1969 from the Law School and was an editor of the *Law Review*. He practiced with several major law firms, concentrating on commercial litigation, but his real passion was teaching. Weiskopf joined the faculty of St. John's University School of Law in 1981 and for 32 years taught classes on subjects including contracts, commercial arbitration and legal writing. His teaching style, informal manner and dedication to students made him a memorable and popular professor and mentor. Weiskopf is survived by his former wife, Joyce; daughters, Phoebe and Nicole; and two grandchildren.

1967

Michael Josefowicz, printer, Quogue, N.Y., on January 19, 2021. Born to Holocaust survivors who emigrated to New York when he was a small child, Josefowicz majored in sociology and was deeply influenced by the work of C. Wright Mills and Karl Mannheim. He co-founded SDS at Columbia, and with his wife, Linda BC'69 (née Kaytes), was active in the anti-war movement during graduate study at Wisconsin and afterward. Josefowicz and his wife co-founded Red Ink Productions, a tech and printing firm that worked with leading NYC nonprofits and graphic designers. He also was an advisor to the CEO of Grow Networks and taught print produc-

tion at Parsons School of Design. In addition to his wife, Josefowicz is survived by his son, Matthew, and his wife, Diane; sister, Sally Schwartz; and three grandchildren.

1968

Gregory T. Lombardo, psychiatrist, New York City, on August 18, 2019. Lombardo majored in English and comparative literature, and earned an M.A. and Ph.D. in 1970 and 1980, respectively, from GSAS, and an M.D.



Gregory T. Lombardo '68

in 1984 from P&S. He was a prominent psychiatrist and literary scholar who authored two books, *Understanding the Mind of Your Bipolar Child* and *The Character Within: A Study in the Development of Shakespeare's Techniques of Characterization*. He is survived by his former wife, Joanne Intrator PS'81; and son, Ben '08.

1969

♦ **Joseph A. Materna**, attorney, Staten Island, N.Y., on January 27, 2021. Born in Garfield, N.J., Materna earned a J.D. from the Law School in 1973 and focused his legal career on trusts and estates planning. He began with Chadbourne, Park, Whiteside & Wolff in 1973 and moved to Finley, Kumble, Wagner, Heine, Underberg, Manley, Myerson & Casey in 1980. Five years later Materna was named partner and head of the Trusts and Estates Department of Newman Tannenbaum Helpen Syracuse & Hirschtritt. In 1990 he moved to Shapiro Beilly Rosenberg Aronowitz Levy & Fox and in 2004 to Solomon Blum Heymann before launching the Law Office of Joseph A. Materna, Esq., in 2014. On May 17, 2005,



Morris Dickstein '61, Literary Critic and Cultural Historian

Morris Dickstein '61 was a public intellectual who was passionate about reading and helping his students to appreciate books to their fullest. A noted literary critic and cultural historian who taught at Columbia during the tumult of the late 1960s before a distinguished career at the City University of New York, he died on March 24, 2021.

Dickstein was a man of Manhattan. Born on February 23, 1940, he lived on the Lower East Side until his family moved to Queens when he was 9. He majored in English at the College, where he also was an editor at *Spectator*. After earning an M.A. and Ph.D. at Yale and studying at Clare College, Cambridge, Dickstein returned to the Upper West Side and began a rich teaching career that spanned more than four decades.

His love of books was stoked as an undergraduate, when he read the work of two of Columbia's most distinguished scholars: Jacques Barzun CC 1927, GSAS 1932's *Teacher in America* (1946) and

Lionel Trilling CC 1925, GSAS'38's *The Liberal Imagination* (1950). Having originally considered a career in journalism or law, those books changed Dickstein's thinking and he found his calling as a literary critic and teacher.

"The idea of teaching others to love books as a career was a gift," his daughter, Rachel, told *The New York Times*. "Reading and writing about what he was reading was his passion."

After earning a doctorate in 1967, Dickstein taught at Columbia before moving in 1974 to Queens College and the CUNY Graduate Center. He was a distinguished professor of English, theater and performance, and liberal studies and founded the Center for the Humanities in 1993. He retired in 2013.

Dickstein published a book review for *Partisan Review* when he was 22, and throughout his career frequently wrote for *The Times Literary Supplement* in Britain and *The New York Times Book Review*, *Partisan Review* and others. He authored

numerous influential books including *Gates of Eden: American Culture in the Sixties* (1977); *Double Agent: The Critic and Society* (1992); *Leopards in the Temple: The Transformation of American Fiction, 1945-1970* (2002); *A Mirror in the Roadway: Literature and the Real World* (2005); *Dancing in the Dark: A Cultural History of the Great Depression* (2009); and a memoir, *Why Not Say What Happened: A Sentimental Education* (2015). *Gates of Eden* was nominated for a National Book Critics Circle Award and *Dancing in the Dark* was a finalist for that award.

In his writings, Dickstein was careful to avoid what he considered the hyper-academic style that he felt was driving many readers away from literary criticism. Instead, he developed a style that was erudite but accessible.

Dickstein saw his responsibility, and that of any critic, to reveal the "sea of hype" that surrounded many books, films and other works of art. "Only when you read a serious review do you see the issues under-



neath," he told *The New York Times* in 1998. "Criticism plays a very important role in keeping people honest. Otherwise, things will be hyped out of sight and reduced to the lowest common denominator."

In addition to his daughter and her husband, Blake Eskin, Dickstein is survived by his wife of 56 years, Lore Willner; son, Jeremy '88, and his wife, Jill; sister, Doris Fineberg; and four grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Temple Adas Israel in Sag Harbor, N.Y. (templeadasisrael.org).

— Alex Sachare '71

Materna marched in the Alumni Parade of Classes in full academic regalia, then attended the graduation of the third of his daughters, Janine '05. Materna, accompanied by his wife, Dolores, and daughters Jodi '99 and Jennifer '02, became the first alumnus to have three daughters graduate from the College. In addition to his wife of 45 years and daughters, he is survived by his brothers, Thomas and Kevin; and son-in-law, Tad Davis.



Joseph A. Materna '69

1971

Richard S. Milich, retired clinical psychology professor, Lexington, Ky., on November 7, 2020. Milich was born on June 26, 1949, in NYC and grew up in New Jersey. He played varsity soccer at Columbia and earned a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Washington University in 1976. From 1985 until his retirement in 2018, Milich was a professor of clinical psychology in the University of Kentucky Department of Psychology and one of the country's leading experts in ADHD. He was a beloved mentor of both undergraduate and graduate students at Kentucky and considered himself "an adopted Wildcat." A prolific researcher, Milich authored and co-authored more than 120 professional articles. After surviving lymphoma, he volunteered with the Markey Cancer Center Patient Advisory Board and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Light the Night. He is survived by his twin

brother, Henry, and Henry's wife, Katherine; and two nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to GreenHouse 17 (greenhouse17.org) or the Psychology Development Fund at Kentucky (uky.edu).

1973

John Keating Willcox, radio executive and teacher, Manchester, Mass., on July 16, 2020. Born on August 2, 1951, in Washington D.C., Willcox graduated from Milton (Mass.) Academy in 1969. He entered with the Class of 1973 but did not graduate, transferring during his senior year to Boston University, where he earned a B.S. and M.S. in computer science and a master's of divinity. He was working toward a Ph.D. in mathematics and a doctor of ministry at the time of his death. Willcox assembled a network of radio stations in New England and taught computer science at BU. He was a lifelong member of St. John's Epis-

copal Church in Beverly Farms and also attended Christ the Redeemer in Danvers. Willcox was an avid polo player who also played kayak polo and bicycle polo, and learned how to luge and bobsled. He purchased and restored square-rigged tall ships and was a chef who created cookbooks about blue food and fish sticks and believed in four major food groups: chocolate, chocolate cake, brownies and chocolate ice cream. Willcox is survived by his former wife, Robin; sons, Clark and Reinhold; daughters, Barbara and her husband, Jonathan Fisk, and Alexandra; two grandchildren; brothers, William, Thomas and Douglas; sister, Mary Willcox Smith; and numerous nieces and nephews.

1976

Nicholas P. Sgammato, musician and teacher, Ossining, N.Y., on October 19, 2020. Born on November 15, 1954, in Peekskill, N.Y., Sgammato was salutatorian at Ossining H.S.,

where he developed his love for music. He then attended the University of Miami and earned a master's from SUNY New Paltz. Proficient in nearly every musical instrument, Sgammato spent more than 30 years as a music teacher at Round Hill Elementary School in Washingtonville, N.Y., Purchase Day Camp in Purchase, N.Y., and St. John the Evangelist Parish in Beacon, N.Y. He was a lifelong fan of jazz, blues, coffee and often to his dismay, the New York Mets. Sgammato and his wife, Linda (née Sellick), were active members of the Community of Sant'Egidio USA. In addition to his wife, Sgammato is survived by his sisters, Sue and Theresa SEAS'84; son, Joseph; and daughters, Jessica and her husband, Paul, and Ali and her husband, Robert; and four grandchildren.

1978

Thomas T. Soter, journalist and improv producer and teacher, New York City, on August 14, 2020. Born and raised with his two brothers on Morningside Heights, where he was a lifelong resident, Soter wrote for numerous magazines and newspapers including *Entertainment Weekly*, *Diversion*, *Backstage*, *The New York Observer* and *Empire*. He was the managing editor of *Firehouse*



Thomas T. Soter '78

magazine 1978–81 and editor of *Habitat* 1982–2019, when he retired from full-time work at the real estate magazine. He authored several books, including *Bond and Beyond: 007 and Other Special Agents* (1992); *Investigating Couples: A Critical Analysis of The Thin Man, The Avengers, and The X-Files* (2001); *Some Thoughts and Some Photos* (2010), a memoir; and *Bedbugs, Biondi, and Me* (2014), a collection of essays on real estate. But mostly, his life revolved around improvisational comedy. He produced and hosted improv shows on the Upper West Side every Sunday night for more than 30 years, taught improv to generations of students and was part of the genesis of several troupes including The Chainsaw Boys and Burn Manhattan. In 2005, Soter was

diagnosed with Parkinson's disease but continued to work at *Habitat* as well as on his improv productions.

1979

Manuel R. Garcia III, oil and gas executive, San Antonio, Texas, on November 4, 2020. Born on February 23, 1957, in San Antonio, Garcia graduated from Harlandale H.S. He worked for a moving and storage company before moving into the oil and gas industry. Garcia was a member of the Columbia Alumni Association of San Antonio, where as a member of the Alumni Representative Committee he interviewed prospective students, represented Columbia at college fairs and attended admitted



Manuel R. Garcia III '79

students' events. He is survived by his wife, Graciela; sons Manuel and his wife, Jessica, and Gabriel and his wife, Kassandra; daughter, Mindy Howell, and her husband, William; four grandchildren; brother, Mario, and his wife, Linda; and sister, Monica Munoz, and her husband, George.

1983

George Poon, financial officer, Brooklyn, N.Y., on September 23, 2020. A graduate of Brooklyn Tech H.S., Poon earned a master's from NYU and worked in the financial services industry in the banking, trading and insurance sectors. He was a devoted family man who loved traveling, especially to national parks to hike and enjoy the landscape. Poon is survived by his wife, Helen; sons, Mitchell and Evan; mother, Mary; sisters, Lillian, Linda and Janet; and many nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to the Cancer Research Institute (fundraise. cancerresearch.org/georgepoon).

2008

♦ **James R. Williams**, writer, New Delhi, India, on April 28, 2021. Born on June 30, 1985, in Florence, Ala., Williams lived in nearby St. Florian

Hon. Paul G. Feinman '81, First Openly Gay Judge on New York High Court

When **Hon. Paul G. Feinman '81** was named by Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo (D-N.Y.) to the State Court of Appeals in 2017, he was asked about becoming the first openly gay jurist to ascend to that position.

"My entire career has been about promoting equal access and equal justice for all," Feinman said. "I hope I add to the diversity of perspectives that the court considers." He was sworn in on June 21, 2017, during Gay Pride Month.

Feinman, who learned he had leukemia in 2015, died on March 31, 2021, in New York City. He had resigned from the bench just eight days prior to his passing.

Feinman was born on January 26, 1960, in Merrick, N.Y., and graduated from John F. Kennedy H.S. in nearby

Bellmore. At the College, he majored in French literature and was a legal intern in Upper Manhattan before earning a J.D. from the University of Minnesota, where he helped found an association for gay students. Feinman also studied in France at the Université de Paris VII (Jussieu), the Université de Paris II (Assas) and the Université de Lyon III. He remained a lifelong Francophile and treated his nieces and nephews to trips to Paris for their 16th birthdays.

He worked for the Legal Aid Society in Nassau County and was a law clerk to Justice Angela M. Mazzarelli of the New York Supreme Court in New York City before being elected to the Civil Court from Lower Manhattan in 1996. Eight years later, in 2004, Feinman was made an acting

justice of the State Supreme Court, was elected to the court in 2007 and elevated by Cuomo to the Appellate Division in 2012.

Feinman was active in the New York State Bar Association, serving as the presiding member of its Judicial Section in 2012–13 and a member of its House of Delegates 2013–14. He also chaired the New York State Justice Task Force, and was a past president of the International Association of LGBT Judges and the Association of Supreme Court Justices of the State of New York.

Asked what type of judge he considered himself — a traditionalist or an activist — Feinman replied: "I decide each case based on the law and the facts. If others want to characterize it, that is up to them."



Feinman is survived by his husband, Robert Ostergaard; mother, Judith Wale Feinman; brother, Philip; and sister, Fran Beilinson.

— Alex Sachare '71



Thomas J. Vinciguerra '85: Inimitable Writer, Colleague and Friend



SAM ROE JRN'86

The death of longtime *Columbia College Today* editor and frequent contributor **Thomas J. Vinciguerra '85, JRN'86, GSAS'90** on February 22, 2021, left his myriad friends and colleagues grieving and his beloved Columbia diminished by the loss of one its most singular figures. A witty, eccentric and altogether charming presence, Vinciguerra enriched the life of the University for some 40 years, primarily through his stellar reporting and writing, his warm relationships with a century's worth of alumni and faculty, and his tireless involvement in Philolexian, the ancient literary and debate society he singlehandedly resurrected as an

undergraduate. A longtime resident of Garden City, N.Y., he was 57.

Vinciguerra distinguished himself beyond the campus gates as well. After leaving *CCT*, he was deputy editor of the newsmagazine *The Week* and then executive editor of *Indian Country Today*. He contributed hundreds of pieces to *The New York Times* and also wrote for *The New Yorker*, *The Wall Street Journal* and other publications. Vinciguerra earned critical acclaim for his meticulously researched, elegantly written book, *Cast of Characters: Wolcott Gibbs, E. B. White, James Thurber and the Golden Age of The New Yorker* (2015). He also edited three volumes: *Conversations with Elie Wiesel*, by Richard D. Heffner '46, GSAS'47; *Backward Ran Sentences: The Best of Wolcott Gibbs from The New Yorker*; and most recently, *A Community of Scholars: Seventy-Five Years of The University Seminars at Columbia*.

When he joined *CCT* as associate editor in 1987, I wrote, "This is the inaugural issue for Tom Vinciguerra '85, veteran of *Spectator* and Philolexian, graduate of Columbia Journalism School, and an excellent writer and editor. Soon we'll teach the whippersnapper how to make a decent pot of coffee."

The good-natured office needling seldom relented during our decade working side by side and nurturing a lifelong friendship. He likened us to Kirk and Spock from the original *Star Trek* series, one of Tom's many cultural obsessions. Our strong rapport was grounded in shared interests and values, especially a fascination with Columbia in all its aspects and a commitment to journalistic excellence. That was the mission.

A regular at *Spectator's* Blue Pencil dinner, the Varsity Show, Homecoming, and the Alexander Hamilton and John Jay awards dinners, Tom relished campus traditions and rituals; the quainter or more absurd, the better. Among his favorite *CCT* assignments was a 1991 report on the rescue of one of the College's most unusual degree requirements, the swim test. "To some alumni it must have seemed pretty incongruous," he wrote, "that in addition to mastering the intricacies of Aristotle, Beethoven and Rembrandt, they were asked to strip naked, plunge into deep water, and then traverse — be it with graceful Olympic strokes or grotesque flailings — the perilous lanes of the University pool."

Closest to Tom's heart was the Philolexian Society. He presided over the annual Joyce Kilmer Bad Poetry

Contest and devoted endless effort to guiding, supporting and otherwise celebrating the organization, which grew into a parallel-universe alumni association. He never married or had kids, but became a big brother or father figure to countless members, who reciprocated by officially dubbing him the "Avatar." Few things pleased Tom more than unearthing the Philo connection of yet another interesting alum, an eclectic list that includes Secretary of State Hamilton Fish CC 1827; historian and Columbia eminence Jacques Barzun CC 1927, GSAS 1932; theologian and author Thomas Merton '38; and poet Allen Ginsberg '48, the cover subject of Tom's one glorious issue (Fall 1997) in the captain's chair as acting editor.

Toward the end of our last conversation, just days before he died, Tom reiterated his intention to press the University Trustees to honor a 19th-century pledge to provide Philolexian with suitable quarters — this on a campus where finding more space has become a universal project. He told me they had promised an actual building. He wasn't kidding. Had he another lifetime like this one, I believe he would have succeeded.

— Jamie Katz '72, BUS'80

until his mother died in a car accident in 1992 and his father died by suicide three years later. Williams and his older brother, John, went to live with their aunt and uncle, Sharon and Bill Alexander, in East Amherst, N.Y. Williams majored in English, wrote observational essays and especially admired Joan Didion. He edited *Inside New York*, a guidebook to the city; sang for Notes and Keys; wrote and edited *The Blue and White*; and co-wrote the 2008 Varsity Show. He became a personal assistant to writer Daphne Merkin and, in order to better understand his childhood, began an oral history project by interviewing his parents' friends in Alabama. Passionate about traveling, Williams met Ayush Thakur in India in 2017 and moved there to live with him. They became engaged and were trying to get a visa for Thakur so they could be

married in the United States. Williams was trying to change the way homosexuality is portrayed in India, as he believed that positive portrayal of gays and lesbians on American television contributed to their recent increased acceptance. Williams is survived by Thakur; his brother; his sister-in-law, Eliza Borné; and the Alexanders. Memorial contributions may be made to UNICEF's Covid-19 Indian Relief Effort (unicef.org/india) or GLAAD (glad.org).

2013

James W. Pagels, writer and research assistant, Washington, D.C., on April 9, 2021. Pagels was born on July 28, 1991, in Los Angeles and grew up in Coppell, Texas, a suburb of Dallas. He double-majored in English

and American studies, was sports editor and a columnist for *Spectator* and also worked for WKCR and the CU Film Program. He earned an M.S. in mathematics and statistics from Georgetown in 2019 while working for the Federal Reserve studying trends in global markets, and was in the second year of a Ph.D. program in economics at Michigan. Pagels continued his journalism career as an online editor for the *Dallas Morning News* and freelancer for ESPN, Slate, Bloomberg, FiveThirtyEight, Deadspin and *The Atlantic*. He also was a research assistant for the Mercatus Center at George Mason University and a regular contributor to *Forbes*, where he wrote about sports economics and prediction markets. Pagels is survived by his parents, Bill and Diggy; and sister, Laura, and her husband, Troy Menendez.

2016

Yeabsira B. Tigistu, marketer, Brooklyn, on November 14, 2020. Born in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Tigistu came to the United States as a young child and graduated from Pioneer H.S. in San Jose, Calif. He majored in political science at the College and was a member of the Men of Color Alliance, Black Students Organization and Sigma Nu fraternity. Upon graduation, he joined Walmart eCommerce as a category management associate and was promoted to category lead in October 2019. An avid reader, Tigistu had an encyclopedic mind and was knowledgeable about myriad subjects. He is survived by his parents, Tigistu Gebre and Elisabet Beyene; and younger brother, Samuel.

— Alex Sachare '71



“In the community garden.”



STUDIO VISIT

Koren considers
his prolific career in our
exclusive video short:
[college.columbia.edu/cct/
latest/feature-extra/koren](https://college.columbia.edu/cct/latest/feature-extra/koren).

*“Just what we need to make 2021
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Thank you for all your submissions.



BENJAMIN SCHWARTZ '03, PS'08



GABRIEL GOMEZ



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— Lexi Young CC'21



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